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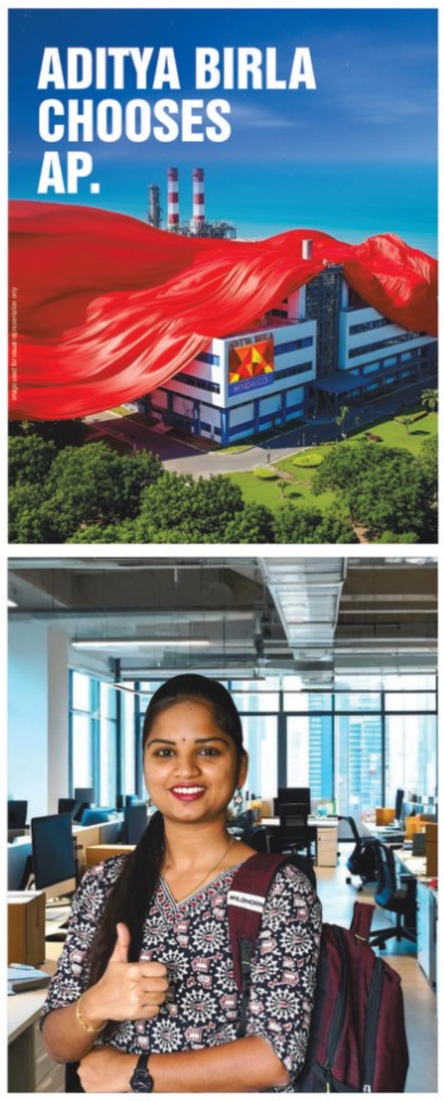

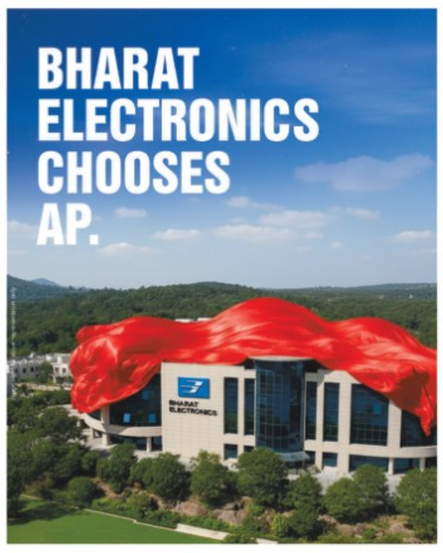

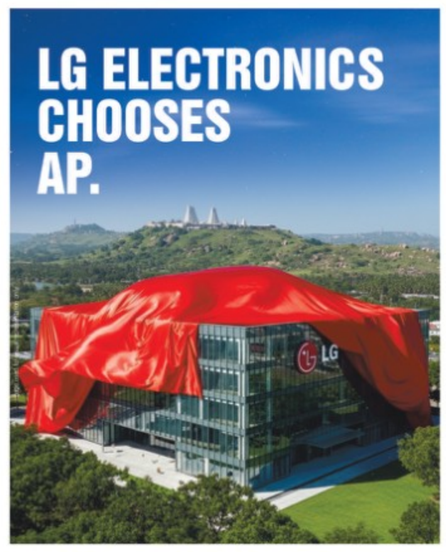

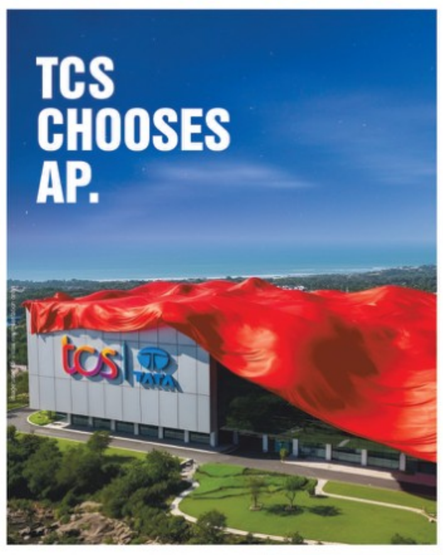

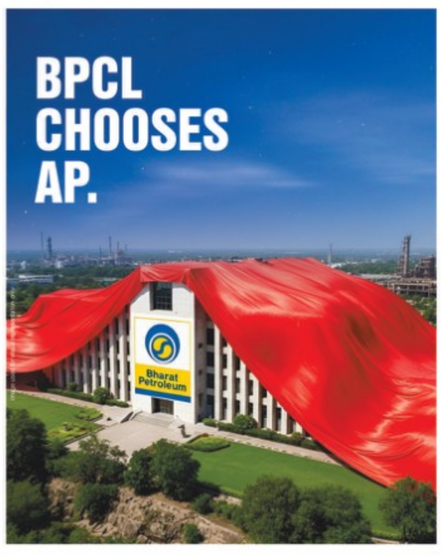

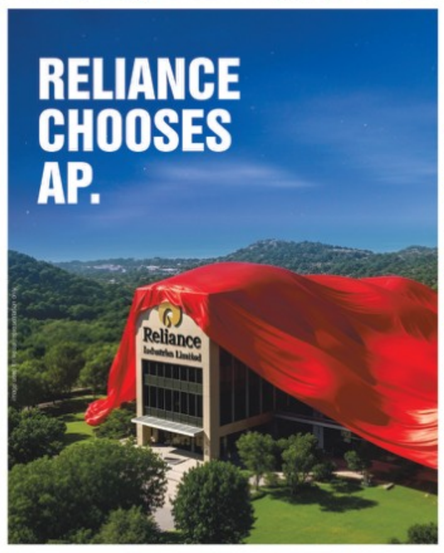

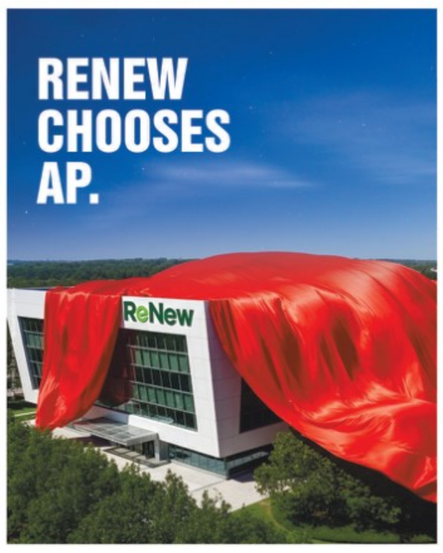

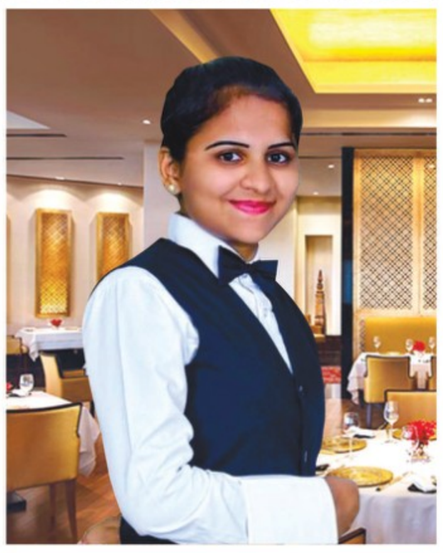
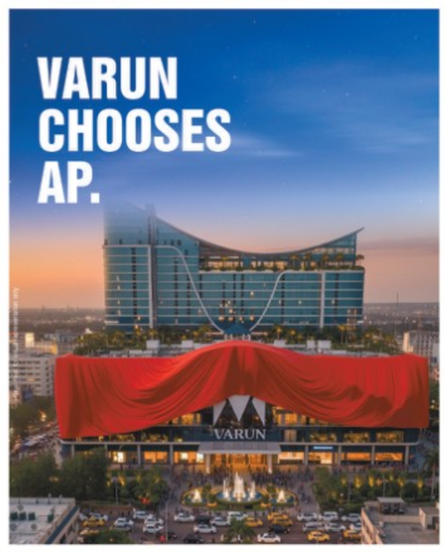

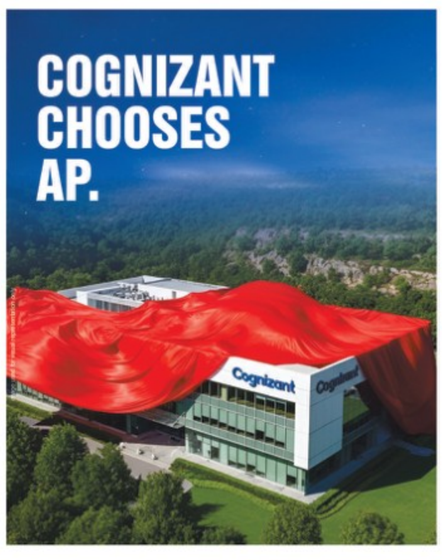

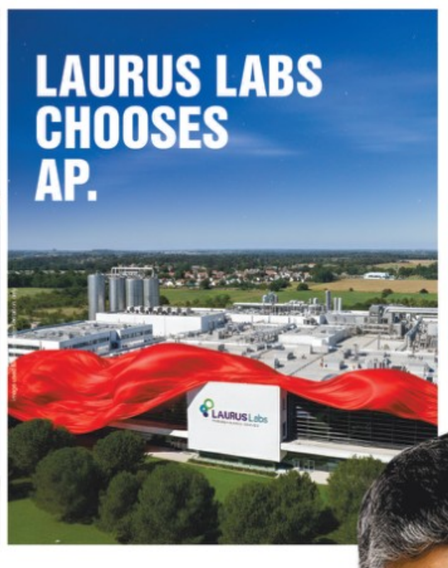

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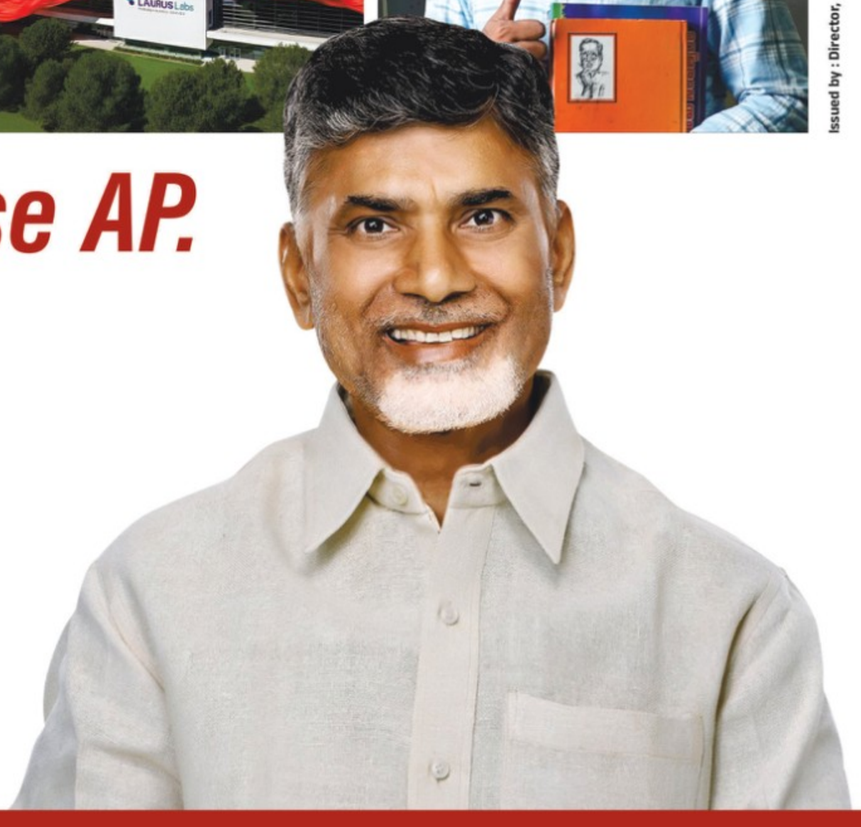

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BIHAR POLLS

Vote counting today; closed-door meets on

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India's carbon emissions rise slower this year

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TREATY OF TRANSIT

India, Nepal alter pact to enable rail logistics

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PARLEY

Should we avoid public expression of devotion?

Experts discuss legality, disruption of civic life

OPINION » PAGE 13

BATTLE AT EDEN

India-South Africa first Test from today

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Miscreants set fire to tractors with sugarcane

BELAGAVI
Miscreants set fire to sugarcane-laden tractors and trolleys parked on the campus of the Godavari Bio Refineries Sugar Factory at Sameerwadi in Bagalkot district on Thursday. » PAGE 10

Mekedatu: 'T.N. challenge is premature'

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday termed Tamil Nadu's application challenging the proposed construction of a reservoir by Karnataka at Mekedatu across the inter-state river Cauvery as "premature" and refused to entertain it.

» PAGE 11

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

Two more held for Delhi blast; varsity faces audit

One more victim dies; police collect forensic evidence from Jain temple and nearby market; J&K Police issue Red Notice against another doctor; agencies trace shops that sold ammonium nitrate

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

A medical college professor and a medical student, both from Jammu and Kashmir, were detained in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, in connection with the car blast near Red Fort.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police issued a Red Corner Notice against another doctor from Kashmir, now believed to be based in Dubai, whose brother has already been arrested. Dozens of people have been detained in J&K during raids on suspects linked to terror networks.

The Haryana Police have also recovered two vehicles owned by Umar Nabi, the prime suspect and lone occupant of the car that exploded in Delhi, killing 13 people, including one who died on Thursday. The Delhi Police collected forensic evidence from a Jain temple and a market near the blast site, and sources said that agencies have identified the shops from where the suspects sourced ammonium nitrate and have also detained the shopowners for further investigation.

The Union government has ordered a forensic audit of all records of the Al-Falah University in Faridabad, where a number of suspects studied or worked.

The Enforcement Directorate and other financial investigative agencies have been asked to check the money trail of the private institution, sources told PTI after a high-level review of the situation chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Officials investigate a site where a dismembered part of a body was found at Lala Lajpat Rai market near the blast site on Thursday. ANI

Does 'act of war' doctrine apply to Delhi blast: Cong.

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Thursday asked the Centre whether the "new normal doctrine" of treating any terror attack as an "act of war", invoked after the Pahalgam attack, would apply to the Delhi blast too. It sought an all-party meeting chaired by the PM on the blast. » PAGE 14

Trump signs Bill to end longest U.S. govt. shutdown in history

Reuters
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed legislation ending the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, roughly two hours after the House of Representatives voted to restart disrupted food assistance, pay hundreds of thousands of federal workers and revive a hobbled air-traffic control system.

The Republican-controlled chamber passed the package by a vote of 222-209, with Mr. Trump's support largely keeping his party together in the face of vehement opposition from House Democrats, who are angry that a long standoff launched by their Senate colleagues failed to secure a deal to extend federal health insurance subsidies.

Mr. Trump's signature on the Bill will bring federal workers idled by the 43-day shutdown back to their jobs starting as early as Thursday, although just how quickly full government services and operations will resume is unclear.

It would extend funding through January 30, leaving the federal government on a path to keep adding about $1.8 trillion a year to its $38 trillion in debt.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Donald Trump

POCSO case against BSY: HC upholds trial court's ruling

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday upheld a trial court order taking fresh cognisance of offences against 81-year-old former Chief Minister B.S Yediyurappa under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, on the allegation of sexual assault of a 17-year-old girl at his residence in February 2024.

Plea on appearance

However, the High Court directed the trial court to entertain the applications for exemption of the personal appearance of Mr. Yediyurappa unless his personal presence is essential for the proceedings.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

K.R. DEEPAK

From despair to delight, South Africa has come a full circle

The WTC crown wasn't an end in itself for the Proteas and the trick is to now build on those gains; the Tests against Gill & Co. promise to be exciting

R. Kaushik

"South Africa arrive with Rice, Wessels and Cook," ran one of the more creative headlines back in November 1991 when, after a 21-year hiatus, the Proteas made their much-anticipated comeback to international cricket.

The apartheid-driven ban from 1970 came to an end after a whirlwind sequence of events that culminated in a hastily put together three-match One-Day International series, with the first of three matches scheduled for Kolkata's Eden Gardens on November 10. There was a certain poignancy in India being the launchpad for the African nation's second coming in international cricket, given that Nelson Mandela, their charismatic champion, was inspired by the principles and philosophies espoused and practised by Mahatma Gandhi.

Armed with skipper (Clive) Rice, (Kepler) Wessels and opener (Jimmy) Cook, the South Africans gave an excellent account of themselves. The 'rebel' tours, facilitated by Dr. Ali Bacher, and the fact that numerous South Africans had honed their skills in county cricket in England, meant the visitors weren't out of their depth despite their long absence from country vs country cricket. In a low-scoring contest in the City of Joy, the South Africans pushed India all the way despite posting just 177 for eight in their 47 overs, the unmistakable class of Allan Donald pushing India to a corner until the brilliance of a very young Sachin Tendulkar (62) and the industry of Pravin Amre (55) combined to take India to a tense three-wicket victory.

Two days later, India sealed the series with a 38-run win in Gwalior but South Africa ended the tour on a high by comfortably hunting down a mammoth (in those days) 288 with eight wickets to spare in a day-night contest in Delhi on the back of a powerhouse batting display helmed by Wessels, Peter Kirsten and the inimitable Adrian Kuiper. The cricket world had been forewarned; South Africa might have been forced absentees for long, but they wouldn't be just making up the numbers.

For years thereafter, in all formats, South Africa were formidable without summoning the wherewithal to go the distance. Such was their meltdown in key moments at ICC tournaments that the distasteful sobriquet of 'chokers' came to be associated with them; in the debris of shattered dreams and a bucketful of unchecked tears, their tryst with ultimate glory in the inaugural ICC KnockOut Trophy (the original avatar of the Champions Trophy) in Bangladesh in 1998 was conveniently forgotten as they were beaten *ad nauseum* with the stick of repeated failures in major tournaments.

All that is now a thing of the past. This June, South Africa made up for years of heartbreak and bitter disappointment with a stunning come-from-behind victory over Australia in the final of the World Test Championship at Lord's. It was sweet redemption, the culmination of years of hard labour marked by self-doubt when it came to the crunch; the rise from eternal bridesmaids was emphatic and complete. South Africa were World Champions. Finally.

The unlikely (to many) figure to lead them to the Promised Land answered to the name of Temba Bavuma. Mild-mannered, softly spoken, understated and standing just five feet four inches in his socks, Bavuma wasn't the most popular choice as skipper and leader until he silenced the critics in typically no-fuss fashion. The WTC final was a personal triumph for the 35-year-old, too; having conceded a deficit of 72 and been tasked with scoring 282 for an upset victory (for that's what it eventually was), South Africa needed a huge dollop of inspiration and that came from their courageous captain.

Overcoming a terrible hamstring injury, he strung together a match-turning stand of 147 for the third wicket with Aiden Markram, the wonderful opener who played the innings of his life with 136 of the finest. From very early in his innings, Bavuma could hardly complete a run in anger, yet he chose mind over matter, refusing to retire hurt when the temptation might have been overwhelming. Bavuma was dropped on two by Steve Smith. He made Australia pay with a crafty 66, an innings of such guts and gumption and character that the others had no option but to follow suit.

The wild scenes of celebrations once Kyle Verreynne brought up the winning run showed what the result meant to a team, to a cricketing entity, to a nation. Back home, South Africans went berserk, the sometimes-divided milieu coming together to hail rare success on the cricket park. At Lord's, players young and old, those who had yet to endure untold implosions and those had been an integral part of said implosions, came together to savour the sweet taste of victory, egged on by a multitude of retired superstars in the audience including former captains Shaun Pollock, Graeme Smith and AB de Villiers. It was a popular victory on all counts; not only had the Aussies been tamed, but the likeable South Africans finally had their place under the sun.

The WTC crown wasn't an end in itself, of course. For South Africa, the trick now is to build on those unquantifiable gains and continue to make their presence felt globally. The belief was that the silverware would inspire a succession of success stories; that belief will be put to the sternest of examinations over the next two weeks when Bavuma's men challenge India in the latter's backyard in another of those annoyingly unfulfilling two-Test showdowns that leave you craving for more.

South Africa has mighty fine pacers, not least the multi-skilled Rabada. But what will genuinely fan the flames of hope is the availability of excellent spinners

South Africa's only series victory in India came more than a quarter of a century back, in early 2000 when Hansie Cronje was the captain. They haven't won a Test in this country since February 2010 when, under Smith, they conjured a commanding innings victory at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur. India were a severely weakened batting outfit on that occasion - Rahul Dravid (injured jaw) and V.V.S. Laxman (split webbing) were out of commission and Rohit Sharma's guaranteed debut had to be delayed owing to a freak injury a few minutes before the toss, forcing reserve stumper Wriddhiman Saha to debut as a specialist batter - but South Africa weren't complaining.

Now, against a full-strength if still slightly undercooked Indian batting group, South Africa must put their best foot forward if they are to at least replicate their deeds in Pakistan, when they bounced back from the loss of the first Test to square the series 1-1 last month. Coach Shukri Conrad acknowledged that India in India was a far more challenging opponent than Pakistan in Pakistan, while Bavuma went so far as to say that winning in India would come a very close second to defeating Australia in the WTC final. Maybe inadvertently, the coach and the captain have put pressure on themselves. Or maybe intelligently, they have given their troops the perfect motivational fodder. We shall know in a fortnight.

Well equipped

South Africa couldn't have asked for a better venue to try and translate their belief into reality. The Eden, hosting a Test after six years, has a tendency to help the quicker bowlers early each morning and, for some strange reason, in the post-tea session, and South Africa have mighty fine pacers, not least the multi-skilled Kagiso Rabada. But what will genuinely fan the flames of hope is the availability of excellent spinners in the experienced duo of Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer, with Senuran Muthusamy as the third cog. South Africa have seldom possessed this array of spin riches to fall back on, which promises to add another exciting dimension to a battle India have shaded in the past without completely blowing their opponents away. For nearly a decade and a half, South Africa were the most competitive overseas team on Indian soil until falling apart after 2010. India have won six of the last seven showdowns, the only no-result stemming from four successive no-show days in Bengaluru in 2015, in de Villiers' 100th Test. Recent history therefore strongly favours India, even without Rohit, Virat Kohli and R. Ashwin, but everybody knows the perils of taking South Africa for granted.

This is India's last assignment in the ongoing WTC cycle for the next nine months; not until they visit Sri Lanka for a two-match faceoff in August will India embrace Test cricket again, so they will be determined to maintain their home hegemony that was bested by an inspired New Zealand last winter. South Africa will have gleaned crucial tips from how the Kiwis crushed Rohit's men 3-0, but India have undergone myriad personnel and mindset changes in the last 12 months and are unlikely to be as accommodating as they were last year, when they were winkled out by Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel.

Shubman Gill, seven Tests young as captain, has taken leading from the front to a whole new dimension with five centuries and counting. He is still finding his feet from a leadership perspective, but is showing himself to be a quick learner. By admitting that, on hindsight, he would have been better off not enforcing the follow-on in Delhi against West Indies instead of eking out 200 overs on the trot from his bowling group, he reiterated that he wasn't averse to putting his hand up and taking responsibility for a questionable if well-intentioned decision. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious, and he has the whole-hearted support of the senior group of K.L. Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah, as vital for their wisdom as for their exploits on the field of play.

Without attempting to veer away from his natural grain, Gill has emerged as the undisputed leader who is happy to allow his senior lieutenants to steady the ship when the water has gotten a little choppy. That points to a leader secure and confident enough to take a step back if the need arises, without totally ceding control which could then trigger anarchy and spark the inevitable result of having too many cooks. England in his first series in charge was a huge test of Gill's mettle, a test he passed with flying colours. The World champions at home will be no less arduous an exercise, one that should energise and excite Gill no end. Bring it on, already.

THE GIST

- South Africa were formidable without summoning the wherewithal to go the distance. Such was the meltdown in key moments at ICC tournaments that the distasteful sobriquet of 'chokers' came to be associated with them
- The team's only series victory in India came more than a quarter of a century back, in early 2000 when Hansie Cronje was the captain. It hasn't won a Test in this country since February 2010
- This is India's last assignment in the ongoing WTC cycle for the next nine months; not until they visit Sri Lanka for a two-match faceoff in August will Gill's men embrace Test cricket again, so they will be determined to maintain their home hegemony

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.: 25/2025-26/1986 Date: 11.11.2025

Tender Notice

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to works of Tarikere Taluk in Chikkamagaluru District. Amount put to Tender is Rs. 99.78 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW- 3. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 11.11.2025 to 26.11.2025 up to 5.30 PM. Technical Bid will be opened on 28.11.2025 at 5.05 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 04.12.2025 at 5.05 PM. If this day is declared as holiday then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/25-26/104/1224

ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ2/ಬಜಟ/Wildlife-MAC/ಸಿಆರ್–12/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–11–2025.

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಅವಗಾಹನೆಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವದೇನೆಂದರೆ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 4406-01-101-Man-Animal Conflict Measures-139-MW (MAC) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಲಘಟಗಿ ವಲಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **ಆನೆ ತಡೆ ಕಂದಕ (ಇಪಿಟಿ) ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ** ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–10–2025** ರಂದು ಕರೆಯಲಾದ **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**

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ಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–11–2025** ರಂದು ಜಾರಿಬರುವಂತೆ ಹಿಂತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯಲಾದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–1999 & ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರೆಂದು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸದರಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–11–2025 ರಂದು 16:00 ಗಂಟೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–11–2025 ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–11–2025 ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಪರಿಮಳ ವಿ. ಎಚ್)
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/855/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP portal only) (Two Cover System)

Bids in two covers are invited through "e" Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar work for the following works.

RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION

1) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3226 dtd. 03.11.2025 : Upkeeping of Critical Equipments, Filtration system, Lube oil system in Turbine and Auxiliaries of Unit-1 to 4. EMD: **Rs. 46,410/-** Last date and time for receipt of tenders : **18.11.2025**. Further details can be obtained from the Executive Engineer(TM-1) RTPS, Mobile: 9449597971, e-mail : eetm1rtps@gmail.com

2) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3652 dtd. 04.11.2025 : Major Overhauling of Kirloskar make compressor (Model No:2HA2TERT) of Unit-8. Last date and time for receipt of tenders : **18.11.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the Executive Engineer(MM-2) RTPS, Mobile : 9449596574, e-mail : eemm2rtps@gmail.com

3) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3648 dtd. 04.11.2025 : Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of analyser like PH, Conductivity & flow transmitter for DM water plant stage-1. EMD: **Rs. 1,60,740/-** Last date and time for receipt of tenders : **18.11.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the Executive Engineer(I)OLA-1, Mobile : 9480830445, RTPS, Shakthinagar-584170, Raichur Dist.

BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION

4) No. KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3572/CALL-2 dtd. 03.11.2025 : Design, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of cable e-chain system to bunker TTR at Unit-2 CHP BTPS Site. EMD: **Rs. 60,400/-** Last date and time for receipt of tenders : **20.11.2025**. Further details can be obtained from Executive Engineer (CHP) Electrical-1, BTPS, Mobile : 9448290554.

5) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3646 dtd. 03.11.2025 : Servicing of IR make Reciprocating Air Compressors of Unit-1 MRHS along with spares in BTPS. Amount put to tender : **Rs. 4,96,540/-** EMD : **Rs. 12,500/-** Last date and time for receipt of tenders : **15.11.2025 upto 17.00 Hrs.** For further details can be obtained from Executive Engineer (MM), Mobile : 9480830329, BTPS, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Smt. SARADA RAMAMURTHY
(99 yrs)
W/o. Late **Shri P.V Ramamurthy**
(Retd. CME, ICF)
passed away peacefully
25-10-1926 - 07-11-2025
In life she embodied strength and vitality, an inspiration to us.
Survived by:
Kalyani, Krishnan, Padmini, Rajiv and Saumya.

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BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-10/TS/2025-26 Date: 11-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.10/2025-26
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under Zilla Panchayat Various Head of Accounts. The Work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **19-11-2025 upto 5.00 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3751/SPAN/2025-26

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ.–ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ/ಜೆ.ಇ./ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 12/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–11–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
2.	PACKAGE : 29, Improvement of Hudikeri G.P. Roads RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT 12234/CALL-3	OTHER	61.13

1. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28–11–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
2. ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29–11–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/32/T-729/2025-26/4086 Date: 12-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi invites (Two Cover Systems) e-Tenders for the following work through e-Procurement Tendering Mode. **Name of Work: Tender for Supply of Laptops to SC / ST Students of VTU PG Centres of Muddenahalli, Belagavi, Mysuru, Kalaburgi, Talakal and UBDTCE, Davangere under SCPS / TSP Plan through VTU Fund.** Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 4,37,16,600/-** EMD Amount: **Rs. 6,56,000/-.** Date of Tender Pre Bid Meeting: **19-11-2025 at 11.00 AM through Online.** Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **11-12-2025 upto 2.30 PM.** Date of Opening of Tender: **12-12-2025 at 4.00 PM.** The details regarding participation in the e-Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU Website: **www.vtu.ac.in** and KPP Portal Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/Belagavi/1307/Adverto/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ನಂ. 3 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಲೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು.
ಫೋನ್/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:08192–200255 Email:eeknnlmbr@gmail.com

ನಂ: ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 03/ಕಾಲ್–4/1124/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.11.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.3 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಲೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು ಇವರಿಂದ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701–ಭದ್ರಾ ಅಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ದಿ: 12.11.2025ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿ:20.11.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.11.2025 ರಂದು 12.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.11.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.35ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :– 2 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು. (1) KNNL/2025-26/ IW/WORK_INDENT2947/CALL-4 ರೂ. 199.23 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ) (2) KNNL/2025-26/ CN /WORK_INDENT2949/CALL-4 ರೂ. 199.17 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ)ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗಿಕರೀಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/468/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.3, ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಲೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE(Proc-2)/AEE-3/2025-26/4088-104
Date:13.11.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following work in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry Number/ Name of the Work
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2920
Work-A: Replacement of **1X6.3MVA,** 66/11kV Power transformer by **1X20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Udayapura sub-station** in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District **Work-B:** Replacement of **2X8MVA,** 66/11kV Power transformer by **2X20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Satenahally sub-station** in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District **Work-C:** Replacement of **1X8MVA,** 66/11kV Power transformer by **1X20 MVA,** 66/11 kV Power Transformer and Providing additional 1X20 MVA, 66/11 kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Kunduru mata sub-station** in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District. **on Partial Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/ Equipments (Excluding supply of 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/ Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **14.11.2025 at 15:00 hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **13.12.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech), Corporate Office, KPTCL, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
BUILDINGS AND ROADS DIVISION, P.W.D., KARAIKAL
e-TENDER NOTICE

No.35/PW/BRK/2025-26 Dated: 13-11-2025

The Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads Division, PWD, Karaikal, invites on behalf of the President of India, online bids for the following Work(s):

Tender No.35. Name of Work: **Improvements to roads and reconstruction of drains in Nehru Nagar and Naachiyar Nagar in Karaikal District.** Estimate Cost: **Rs. 9,05,52,862/- (inclusive of GST).** Earnest Money: **Rs. 18,11,057/-** Period of Completion: **Twelve (12) Months** (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender upto **4.00 P.M. on 27-11-2025.**

Other details/information can be seen in the website: **https://pudutenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-B&R
P.W.D., KARAIKAL

No.292/DIP/KKL/ADVT/2025

Karnataka Municipal Data Society®
6th Floor, #1-4, IT Park, Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560010.

No: E251223 KMDS/TECH/OTHE/13/2025 Date: 13.11.2025

SHORT TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

Short term ReTender is invited through e-procurement portal for the following service required for KMDS Data centre, please visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** to submit bids.

ReTender Details

Tender No. DMA/2025-26/SE6333/Call-2
Tender Name: TENDER FOR MAP AND CLOUD TRANSLATION API SERVICES FOR KMDS
Technical bid opening Date & Time: 24-11-2025 at 11.00 AM,
Financial bid opening Date & Time: 27-11-2025 at 11.00 AM,
ReTenders Publish Date: 14-11-2025, **Last date for receipt of retenders :** 21-11-2025 at 5.30 PM.

Sd/-
Joint Director(R),
Karnataka Municipal Data Society, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3777/2025-26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, 1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavana, 3rd Main Road, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040.

No: EE(VJN)/TEND/KPPP/09/2025-26 Date: 13.11.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, BWCC invites standard tender documents KW-4 on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any state governmental organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Comprehensive development of roads, drains and footpath of Arterial and sub arterial roads in Vijayanagara Assembly Constituency. (Package-VJN-01) **Est. Cost: ₹.1342.85 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.1066.22 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.15,00,000/-** (₹.1.00 lakh through KPP Portal & the balance ₹.14,00,000/-shall be in the form of Bank Guarentee/FD)
2.	Comprehensive development of roads, drains and footpath of Arterial and sub arterial roads in Vijayanagara Assembly Constituency. (Package-VJN-02) **Est. Cost: ₹.1120.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.897.28 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.13,34,000/-** (₹.1.00 lakh through KPP Portal & the balance ₹.12,34,000/-shall be in the form of Bank Guarentee/FD)
3.	Comprehensive development of roads, drains and footpath of Arterial and sub arterial roads in Vijayanagara Assembly Constituency. (Package-VJN-03) **Est. Cost: ₹.1321.02 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.1048.89 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.15,00,000/-** (₹.1.00 lakh through KPP Portal & the balance ₹.14,00,000/-shall be in the form of Bank Guarentee/FD)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **17.11.2025, 5:30** pm. onwards (2) Last Date & Time for uploading Tender documents on **05.12.2025** at **5:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid meeting on **25.11.2025** at **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical document on **06.12.2025** at **4:30** pm. (5) Financial Opening (Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC

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Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No. 9646118773)

Tender Enquiry No.: QQ-4036/PO-T/25-26/CE-MM

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites E-tender of **80 nos Three Phase, 500kVA, 11/0.433 KV**, ISI Marked, EEL-2/Star-2, oil immersed, CRGO/Amorphous core, Copper wound, distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specifications & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & IS 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in **from 15.11.2025 onwards.**

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 800/25 **1079/12/2025-26/4951**

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान तिरुचिरापल्ली
Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION - NON-FACULTY ON REGULAR
Advt. No.: EST-II/A-02/2025/004 dated November 14, 2025

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli invites online applications from interested candidates for the various non-faculty positions on a regular basis on or before **December 16, 2025.**

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BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Marathalli Division, Bellandur Main Road, Bellanduru - 560 103.

No: BECC/EE/MRH/TN/02/2025-26 Date: 12.11.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (SHORT TERM)

(Through KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Executive Engineer, Marathalli Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The tenderers shall be registered in CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Central Govt. organization.Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors.

Name of the work : (1) Resurfacing of Existing Road and Improvements of Drain in Wind tunnel road Yamlur Road via Kempapura Yamalur to Old Airport Road (Yamluru Junction) in Marathalli Division-MRH-Package 1. **Amount Put to tender : Rs. 1,200.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.1,20,000/-**

(2) Resurfacing and Improvements to Drain and footpaths of Major Roads in Munnekollała, Bellandura and Panathur Wards of Marathalli division (MRH-Package-2), **Amount Put to tender : Rs. 1,200.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.1,20,000/-**

Calendar of events : (1) Last date of submission queries : **20.11.2025 within 11.00 A.M** (2) Date & time for Pre Bid Meeting : **20.11.2025 at 3.00 P.M.** (3) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **28.11.2025 Upto 4:00 P.M.** (4) Date & Time for Opening Technical bid : **29.11.2025 at 4.30 P.M** (5) Date & Time for Opening Financial bid : **01.12.2025 at 4.00 P.M**

Bid document may be referred for other terms and conditions and any Corrigendum / Addendum will be published and Notified only through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact KPP portal**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Marathalli Division

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, Muralidharan V (New Name), previously called Robert John J (Old Name), S/o Joseph Victor, Aged About 39 Yrs, R/at #36, Ground Floor, 3rd Block, 2nd Main, Sir M V Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016, deponent herein, do hereby solemnly declare that I have hereunto subscribed my signature of behalf of my former and adopted name/ surname of Robert John J and Muralidharan V and affix my signature on this 10.11.2025 at Bengaluru, sworn before Advocate and Notary L. Gopalakrishna at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, V Venkatanarayana S/O Venkataravanappa R/O H.No 2323, Near Old Urdu School, Pavagada (Rural), Dist. Tumkur (Karnataka) have changed my name to V SHIVAPRASAD forever.

I, NAGARAJU, S/o Gurumalla, r/at No.369/E, Horamavu Agara Main Road, Banaswadi, Horamavy Agara, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name as G Nagaraju vide affidavit dtd 27.10.2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bluru

I, NANCY, W/o. Vivek Dilawari, R/at B–307, Nava Vaibhava, Horamavu Agara, Bangalore 43 have changed my name from NANCY VERMA to NANCY for all my future purposes through affidavit dated 11–11–2025 sworn before the Notary B.Seshagiri.

I,MOHAMMED NAYEEMUR RAHMAN S/o Mohammed Ismail Muazam R/O C3 Diamond Block Sunny Dew Apartments 1st Main Mgr Layout Mahadevapura Main Bengaluru Karnataka–560048 changed the name of my minor Daughter HINA FATHIMA NAYEEMUR ALIAS HINA FATHIMA to HINA FATHIMA aged 14 Years.

I, MR. Lenin Babu Kancharla s/o Mohan Rao K, resident of 30, 2nd Cross, Meenakshi Gardens, Noble Residency Road, Bangalore –560076 hereby declare that I use a pen name Mr. Eliyan OM for my philosophical writings, books, art, creative works. An affadavit with certificate no IN–KA93035090849771X is notarized by Notary Mohammad Hussain K. at JayaNagar, Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sunita Gami W/o Pawan Gami R/o 15186, Prestige Tranquility, Bommenahalli, Bengaluru, 560049 have changed my name to Sunita Pawan Gami vide Affidavit Dated: 13/11/2025 sworn before Notary Manjunath .T Bengaluru

I, SHREELAKSHMI D/o P.Sitaraman, R/o No.19, Shree Nilaya, Venkateshwara Layout, 2nd Cross, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054 have changed my name to Shreelakshmi Sitaraman vide affidavit dt: 12.11.2025 sworn before Notary Ambika.S, B'lore.

I, INGERSAL Vairavannadar, S/o Vairavan, born on 31/05/1955, residing at Plot No. 15, Sakthi Nagar, Nallur Road, Chithanapalli, Hosur – 635103, do hereby declare that I have changed my name to Ingersoll Vairavan as per affidavit dated 27/10/2025 at Hosur.

I, PRATIK Bhansali Prakash Kumar Bhansali, S/O; Prakash Kumar Bhansali, R/O; NOD204, DBLOCK, Mantri Paradise APT Arekere, Bannerghatta Rd, Bilekahalli, BLR–560076.Have changed my name as Pratik Bhansali. vide affidavit on 12.11.25

I, LOUELLA Mary Ann Dmonte, W/o Nester Dmonte, r/at No 179, Rain Mansion 8th Street Bank Avenue, Babusapalya Banaswadi Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name as Louella Dmonte vide affidavit dtd 12.11.2025 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bluru

WE, PAVANKUMAR. A.R and Anjali. A.P R/at Madivalara Beedi, Amruthur, Tumkur-572111 have changed our minor daughter's name from Laasya. A.P to Likitha Pavankumar for all practical purposes vide affidavit dt.04.11.2025 sworn before Notary V Anjanappa, Bangalore.

We, Louella Dmonte and Nester Dmonte, r/at No 179, Rain Mansion 8th Street Bank Avenue, Babusapalya Banaswadi Bengaluru 560043 have changed our daughter's name from Shannon Dmonte to Shannon Anne Marie Anne Dmonte vide affidavit dtd 12.11.2025 sworn before Notary

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CHANGE OF NAME

I,REKHA YALLATTI H D/o Honnappa Yallatti R/o Kulali Bagalkot Karnataka– 587113 changed my name to REKHA YALLATTI.

I, MOHAMMED NAYEEMUR RAHMAN ISMAIL MUAZAM S/o Mohammed Ismail Muazam Isaack R/o C3 Diamond Block Sunny Dew Apartments 1st Main Mgr Layout Main Road Mahadevapura Bengaluru Karnataka–560048 changed my name to MOHAMMED NAYEEMUR RAHMAN.

I, MARCY, W/o. G Nagaraju, r/at No.369/E, Horamavu Agara Main Road, Banaswadi, Horamavy Agara, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name as Mercy Prasanna Kumari Darwin vide affidavit dtd 27.10.2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bluru

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Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the posts of **Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor** in various Teaching Departments of the University on regular basis. Application can be submitted through the official website of the University (Recruitment link) from **08-11-2025** to **06-12-2025.** Corrigendum, if any, will be posted only on the University website. Last Date of submission of Online Applications is **06.12.2025** and receipt of hard copy is **12-12-2025.**

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Sd/- Registrar

4 major firms bid for tunnel project

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, Adani Group, Vishwa Samudra Engineering, and Dilip Buildcon Limited have submitted bids

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The proposed tunnel road project in Bengaluru has taken a key step forward with the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) receiving bids from four prominent infrastructure firms.

According to the officials from the B-SMILE, the special purpose vehicle overseeing the project, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Adani Group, Vishwa Samudra Engineering, and Dilip Buildcon Limited have submitted bids.

The project, aimed at constructing a 16.74-km twin tunnel connecting Esteem Mall Junction at Hebbal to Central Silk Board Junction in the southern part of Bengaluru, has been one of the most debated urban infrastructure proposals in recent years. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

The project, aimed at constructing a 16.74-km twin tunnel connecting Esteem Mall Junction at Hebbal to Central Silk Board Junction in the southern part of Bengaluru, has been one of the most debated urban infrastructure proposals in recent years.

Ease traffic congestion

According to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the project is expected to ease traffic congestion across key the north-south corridors. However, many have opposed the project and multiple Public Interest Litigations are pending before the High Court of Karnataka and the National Green Tribunal. The B-SMILE had floated global tenders for the project in July 2025, inviting bids for two separate packages. However, the deadline was extended multiple times due to limited interest from major firms.

The tender, first issued on July 16, had a submission deadline of September 3. When no significant bids were received, the deadline was postponed to September 30, then October 29, and finally November 11. The officials claimed that all four companies submitted their bids before the final deadline. According to the tender notification issued by the Superintending Engineer of the B-SMILE, the construction period for the project is set at 50 months, which is equivalent to four years and two months. If executed as planned, the tunnel road could become operational by the end of 2029.

The project will follow a Build, Own, Operate, and Transfer (BOOT) model, with a total concession period of 34 years, which includes the construction timeline. The selected contractor will develop, operate, and maintain the infrastructure before handing it over to the government of Karnataka at the end of the concession term.

The twin tunnel project will be divided into two packages. Package 1 spans 8.748 km from Esteem Mall Junction to Seshadri Road-Race Course Junction, while Package 2 covers another 8.748-km stretch between Seshadri Road and Silk Board Junction. Each section will feature two tunnels with three lanes each, equipped with dedicated entry and exit ramps to improve traffic flow.

At least eight Tunnel Boring Machines are expected to be used in the construction.

Varied expertise

The estimated cost for Package 1 is ₹8,770 crore, requiring a financial guarantee of ₹43.85 crore from the successful bidder. The Package 2 has been valued at ₹8,928 crore, with a guarantee requirement of ₹44.64 crore.

The four participating firms bring varied expertise to the table. The RVNL, a 100% government-owned PSU under the Ministry of Railways, has been expanding beyond railway projects into sectors like highways and power. Adani Group, a major Indian conglomerate, has an extensive portfolio in infrastructure development. Vishwa Samudra Engineering is a multi-disciplinary civil construction company, while Dilip Buildcon Limited is a leading infrastructure developer known for executing large-scale road projects.

RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 8

'Tunnel project could burden taxpayers and duplicate infrastructure'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MP for Bengaluru Central P.C. Mohan has raised objections to the proposed north-south tunnel corridor between Hebbal and Silk Board, calling it an "unscientific and economically unsound project" that could burden taxpayers and duplicate existing infrastructure.

P.C. Mohan

Welfare schemes

"With the State's finances already stretched by welfare schemes, the tunnel's burden will eventually fall on citizens through higher taxes, tolls, or diversion of essential funds," Mr. Mohan said, adding that he and his team were compiling data and expert inputs to submit before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the State Tender Committee.

Mr. Mohan said the project appears to have been rushed through without adequate technical validation, environmental scrutiny, or integration with the city's ongoing transport plans and urged the State government to withdraw the proposal and instead prioritise the city's long-pending elevated corridor and Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) projects. The proposed tunnel, comprising 18 km of main underground stretch and 15 km of ramps, is designed at a depth of 35 to 40 metres, passing through Mekhri Circle, Race Course Road, Lalbagh, and Madivala, he said, arguing that the tunnel's alignment seems to have been decided based on where land is available, not where traffic demand exists, he argued.

"For instance, Mekhri Circle was chosen because of palace and defence lands, and Lalbagh and Race Course road due to land relocation proposals," Mr. Mohan said, adding that the tunnel terminates near St. John's Hospital, before the high-density Silk Board junction, which makes little sense from a transport planning perspective.

"The proposed Hosur airport will further increase traffic load in the same corridor, making the current alignment illogical and short-sighted," he said.

Mr. Mohan criticised the composition of the project's scrutiny committee, which currently includes government engineers and a private consultant from Delhi. "An independent review must be conducted by neutral institutions like IISc or IITs," he said. He also suggested empowering the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority to coordinate all major mobility projects under one integrated framework.

'Praise from Gadkari'

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has lashed out at the Opposition BJP, calling it a party that is opposed to the development of Karnataka.

"Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has praised the project. No one spoke against tunnels when the metro was made. The tunnel road project is a project for posterity."

High-yield maize, sunflower, turmeric varieties unveiled at Krishi Mela 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Participants taking part in the Krishi Mela, organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Five new high-yielding crop varieties, 36 new farming technologies, and a practical handbook were unveiled to make modern farming simpler and more productive at the annual Krishi Mela 2025, which was inaugurated at Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK), University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru (UAS-B), on Thursday.

The crops included a high-yield maize, a sunflower hybrid with more oil content, a crystal corn variety, and two improved turmeric varieties, including a rare black turmeric. Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy inaugurated the mela. He said, "Farming today is more than a livelihood, it is a science. With better seeds, technology, and smart practices, our farmers can achieve more and make agriculture rewarding." Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Labour, said that such events encourage young people to explore agriculture as a promising career. This year, the theme is 'Prosperous Agriculture, Developed India' and aims to highlight how science, innovation, and tradition can come together to shape the future of farming in Karnataka.

The fair also honoured outstanding farmers and women farmers at the State, district, and taluk levels, recognising those who have adopted innovative and sustainable practices. Some of the top awardees include L.V. Shivaraju from Bangalore South for State-Level Best Farmer, Padmani Kom from Bangalore Rural for State-Level Best Woman Farmer, and M.N. Ravishankar from Kolar with the H.D. Deve Gowda Best Farmer Award.

The four-day fair, which will go on till November 16, will feature live field demonstrations, expert discussions, and exhibitions, giving farmers and the public hands-on experience with modern techniques from water-saving methods to climate-smart farming.

BWSSB phone-in programme today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will hold a phone-in programme on Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. with BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasad Manohar. Residents can contact the helpline numbers 080-22945119 and 080-22229639.

Rise in diabetic foot condition: Doctors now employ AI for early detection

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The centre integrates various diagnostic tools into one platform, powered by proprietary AI algorithms that enable precise classification of feet at risk. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

To tackle the growing burden of diabetic foot complications, podiatrists in Karnataka are integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into diabetic foot screening, classification, and management.

An AI-powered Diabetic Foot Care and Research Centre has been set up at the Government Nandi Medical College Hospital in Chickballapur. The centre brings together advanced diagnostic tools, including pedobarography, vascular and neuropathy assessment, on a single integrated platform.

The initiative, developed by StrideAIde, a start-up founded by Pavan Belehalli, associate professor and head of the Department of Podiatry at the State-run Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology and Research (KIER), is being implemented by the Trinity Foundation, in collaboration with the BeST Cluster of IISc.

The centre will be formally inaugurated on World Diabetes Day, November 14.

Screening

Dr. Belehalli told *The Hindu* that conventional diabetic foot screening has relied heavily on specialised clinical expertise. "The introduction of AI now allows for early detection, accurate risk classification, and timely intervention, which can significantly reduce the risk of complications such as lower-limb amputations," he said. The centre integrates various diagnostic tools into one platform, powered by proprietary AI algorithms that enable precise classification of feet at risk. "It generates integrated reports to assist clinicians in early detection and referral," Dr. Belehalli said. A key feature of the system is StrideGPT, an intelligent conversational AI agent designed to assist doctors, patients, and paramedical staff. "It allows users to interact easily with the system, minimising the need for specialised personnel to interpret complex diabetic foot data," he explained.

Describing the centre as a 'significant step' in decentralising diabetic foot care, Dr. Belehalli said it would help extend specialised services to taluk and district levels.

Nerve damage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Foot problems are common among people with diabetes, often resulting from prolonged high blood sugar levels that damage nerves and blood vessels. This nerve damage, known as diabetic neuropathy, can cause numbness, tingling, pain, or a loss of sensation in the feet. The reduced ability to feel pain, heat, or cold increases the risk of unnoticed injuries that can lead to ulcers and infections.

If left untreated, such infections can worsen and may eventually require amputation to prevent further spread.

Rising burden

According to KIER data, diabetic foot cases among patients, particularly males aged 35 to 55, are on the rise. The institute recorded 13,091 patients in 2022, 13,958 in 2023, and 11,258 cases till October 2024. Between November 2024 and November 13, 2025, the number climbed to 13,542.

Overall, from 2022 till November 2025, 25,086 patients have undergone minor and major procedures at the KIER. The number of amputations has also increased - from 55 minor and 12 major amputations in 2023, to 65 major and 17 minor in 2024. This year, 28 major and 42 minor amputations have already been performed.

NITK-Surathkal engineers ramp up 'Malgudi's magic' with reliable internet in Agumbe

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The connections now cover the Agumbe gram panchayat office, one of the two cobra research institutions, police station, hospitals, schools, ration society, anti-poaching posts, homestays, restaurants, and households. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Cherrapunji of South India, the land of King Cobras, and the picturesque location that inspired 'Malgudi Days' - Agumbe - steals the hearts of tourists in a second. However, one thing locals and tourists in this hill station have struggled with is unreliable internet connectivity, primarily due to heavy rainfall in the region that causes frequent power disruptions and signal issues.

A team from The National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, may have found a solution for this.

Led by Mohit P. Tahiliani, associate professor at NITK Surathkal, they completed the deployment of 100 internet connections in Agumbe on November 8, under the project 'Promoting HEALTH in Agumbe'. The project is funded by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Communication Society & IEEE Tech4Good. The connections now cover the Agumbe gram panchayat office, one of the two cobra research institutions, police station, hospitals, schools, ration society, anti-poaching posts, homestays, restaurants, and households. "The HEALTH stands for healthcare, education, agriculture, livelihood, technology and heritage," explains Mr. Tahiliani. "We have deployed the Fibre to Home technology. It is not new, but tweaked to suit the local conditions," he said.

While under different circumstances wireless is one of the most efficient technologies in Agumbe, the heavy rainfall and hilly terrain pose a challenge and hinder signal penetration. Mr. Tahiliani's team, therefore, resorted to drawing the fibre cables from electrical poles with the permission of Mescom and connected them to Wi-Fi boxes at individual houses or buildings.

The biggest task before the team, however, was to ensure the reliability of the connection around the clock and throughout the year. "My challenge was to not just provide connectivity, but ensuring reliability." This was a tall order considering that the region sees power outages that last as long as three days during the rainy season.

"Thankfully, the Agumbe gram panchayat has given me one small corner where I have deployed my main switch ONT box that connects the entire village. That needs to be up for everyone to get internet. I have given an UPS power supply and only the ONT box is connected to it. So even up to four days the UPS will not die."

Sustainable model

While the cable cuts could be yet another issue, the local cable operator takes care of those, said Mr. Tahiliani. "Unlike a town where you can draw one cable and connect multiple houses, here, between one house to another, sometimes there is a gap of one to two km. For the cable operator, it is not economically viable to run cables for such long distances," he noted.

"Sometime we had to run cable for eight km. But under this project, the cost of all such heavy infrastructure is borne by IEEE and the cable operator has to pay only for manpower. Every month, customers pay ₹500 or more, and the operators, who are in-charge of maintenance, get a percentage of that. It is a sustainable model."

Impact

The team plans to complete 20 more connections in the coming days with the remaining funds.

According to Mr. Tahiliani, seeing the success of the project, around three to four people have moved back to Agumbe from Bengaluru. "Hoteliers are now able to provide internet for tourists. Tourists can make UPI payments. Even restaurants are sharing their internet connection with customers who sometimes use it to finish some work," he said.

Workplace stress linked to rising cases of diabetes among adults

Clinicians and researchers say the metabolic consequences of chronic job pressure are becoming increasingly visible in younger working populations; doctors point to sharper increase in stress-linked diabetes among workers in tech, finance, customer service, and healthcare; night shift workers are also at risk

WORLD DIABETES DAY

Athira Elssa Johnson

India has an estimated 10.1 crore people living with diabetes according to ICMR-INDIAB, 2023, and growing evidence suggests that workplace stress may be one of the factors heightening this burden.

While international research has long linked chronic stress to metabolic dysfunction, emerging Indian data echo these patterns.

For instance, a study among adults with Type 2 diabetes at a medical college in Tamil Nadu found that higher perceived stress scores were significantly associated with poorer glycaemic control and longer disease duration.

Physiologically, chronic stress keeps the body in a state of heightened alert, elevating cortisol and adrenaline, disrupting glucose metabolism, and favouring fat accumulation around the abdomen. Over time, this leads to insulin resistance and metabolic instability.

"We are seeing this link more clearly now than a few years ago," said R. Sundararaman, senior consultant – internal medicine, SIMS Hospital, Chennai. Many of his patients in their early 30s and 40s arrive with rising sugar levels, poor sleep and central weight gain despite no major dietary excess. "Chronic stress at work keeps cortisol levels high and that slowly interferes with how insulin works."

Sadhana Dhavapalani, senior consultant in family medicine at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, noted that recent workplace health research is beginning to also show gendered patterns in stress-linked metabolic changes. "Multiple studies suggest that prolonged occupational stress is associated with a higher incidence of Type 2 diabetes and pre-diabetes in women," she said, adding that early signs such as steady weight gain, borderline blood pressure, and rising triglycerides often go unnoticed until they progress. The pattern is very familiar: no time to eat properly, no time to sleep, and rising sugars that they don't notice until blood tests pick it up."

Early metabolic signs

Doctors say the early metabolic effects of stress are frequently misattributed to "busy lifestyles." Elamthalir. I., consultant, diabetology, SRM Global Hospitals, Chennai, notes that signs such as abdominal weight gain, daytime fatigue, fragmented sleep and sudden cravings are commonly normalised rather than recognised as endocrine warning signals. "Many people assume reduced appetite or increased tiredness is just part of their routine. But we see insulin sensitivity declining much earlier, along with fluctuations in post-meal blood sugar," she explained.

Chronic stress keeps the body in a state of heightened alert, elevating cortisol and adrenaline, disrupting glucose metabolism, and favouring fat accumulation around abdomen

Pearlsy Grace Rajan, senior consultant, internal medicine, Rela Hospital, Chennai, described this as a subtle but progressive pattern. "Persistent fatigue, abdominal weight gain, cravings and disrupted sleep are often dismissed as stress. But these can be early metabolic flags. If missed, they progress to impaired glucose tolerance before anyone realises."

Doctors pointed to sharper increase in stress-linked diabetes among workers in tech, finance, customer service and healthcare. "The most worrying trend is among IT and finance professionals and night shift workers," said Dr. Sundararaman. "They tell me they feel guilty switching off their phones even for half an hour. This constant pressure is directly reflected in their sugars."

Narendra B.S., lead consultant, endocrinology & diabetology, Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru, added that shift work disrupts circadian rhythms, which govern metabolism. "When sleep and meal timing are irregular, insulin sensitivity drops. We see more unstable blood sugar profiles in people on night shifts, even if they are careful with diet and medication."

Experts emphasise that the solutions do not require elaborate corporate wellness budgets. Small, predictable rhythms have disproportionate benefits. Workplaces that provide scheduled lunch breaks, movement gaps between meetings, limits on late-night logging, healthy cafeteria options, and shift rotations for night workers can significantly reduce stress hormone load, said Dr. Elamthalir, who described these changes as "low-cost, high-impact."

Supportive policies

Dr. Pearlsy noted that such supportive policies may enhance productivity rather than compromise it. "When the body is not constantly under stress, attention and performance improve."

For those already diagnosed, managing stress can meaningfully stabilise blood glucose. Dr. Sundararaman said he has seen patients who adopt mindfulness or therapy achieve smoother sugar patterns. "When the mind is calmer, sleep is better, and the sugars behave better," he said.

Subramanian Kannan, senior consultant, endocrinology & diabetology, Narayana Health City, Bengaluru, said, "Stabilising cortisol through structured breaks, counselling, predictable routines or mindfulness can complement medication in lowering glucose variability."

Stress, doctors emphasise, must be taken as seriously as diet and exercise. *(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)*

THE GIST

- India has an estimated 10.1 crore people living with diabetes according to ICMR–INDIAB, 2023, and growing evidence suggests that workplace stress may be one of the factors heightening this burden
- Doctors say the early metabolic effects of stress are frequently misattributed to 'busy lifestyles'. Signs such as abdominal weight gain, daytime fatigue, fragmented sleep and sudden cravings are commonly normalised rather than recognised as endocrine warning signals, they say
- Experts emphasise that the solutions do not require elaborate corporate wellness budgets. Small, predictable rhythms can have disproportionate benefits, they add

GETTY/ISTOCK

> Multiple studies suggest that prolonged occupational stress is associated with a higher incidence of Type 2 diabetes and pre-diabetes in women
>
> **SADHANA DHAVAPALANI**
> senior consultant, Apollo Hospitals

Why Hepatitis A deserves a place in India's universal immunisation programme

Vipin M. Vashishtha

As India debates the inclusion of the typhoid conjugate vaccine in its universal immunisation programme, it is time to ask whether Hepatitis A – a growing cause of acute liver failure – deserves even greater priority. A safe, effective, and long-lasting indigenous vaccine already exists; what is missing is the policy decision. India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been one of the most successful public health initiatives in the developing world. It eradicated polio, curbed measles deaths, and saved millions of young lives. Yet as the country's health landscape changes, so too must its immunisation priorities.

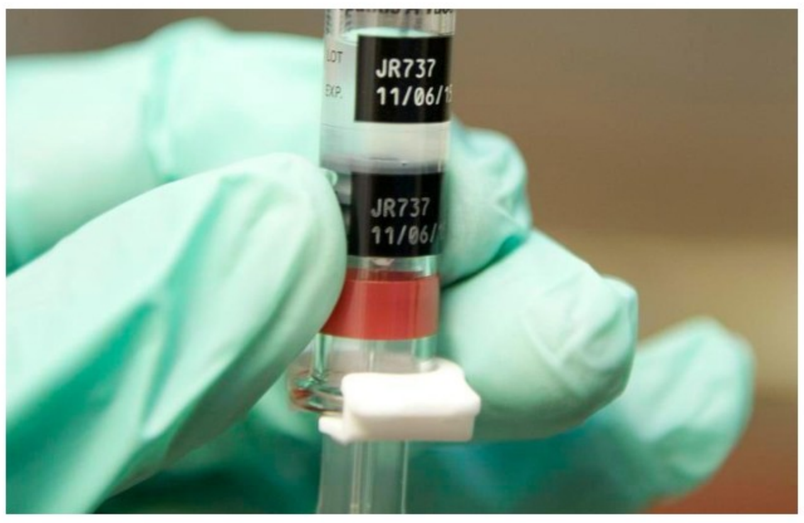
A recent article in *The Hindu* made a strong case for introducing the typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) into the UIP. The argument is compelling: India bears half of the world's typhoid burden, manufactures multiple WHO-prequalified TCVs, and yet has not included them in its national schedule.

However, as we assess new vaccines for inclusion, scientific evidence and public-health impact must guide our choices. On these counts, Hepatitis A vaccination may deserve even higher priority.

On Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A, by contrast, is a silent but mounting threat. For decades, the virus infected most Indians in early childhood, causing mild illness and conferring lifelong immunity. With improved sanitation and hygiene, that pattern has changed. Fewer children are exposed early, leaving many adolescents and adults unprotected – groups in whom the disease is far more severe.

In recent years, multiple outbreaks in Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi have underscored this shift. Hospitals have reported clusters of acute liver failure and even deaths. Unlike typhoid, there is no specific treatment for severe Hepatitis A; recovery often depends on supportive care. Seroprevalence studies reveal a steady decline in protective antibodies – from over 90% two decades ago to less than 60% in many urban regions. The result is a growing pool of susceptible young people vulnerable to serious illness. Hepatitis A is no longer a benign childhood infection; it is an emerging public health concern.



Rethinking priorities: Unlike typhoid, there is no specific treatment for severe Hepatitis A; recovery often depends on supportive care. FILE PHOTO

The good news is that Hepatitis A is entirely preventable. Both live-attenuated and inactivated vaccines offer protection rates exceeding 90 to 95%, with immunity lasting for at least 15 to 20 years – often lifelong. India has its own indigenous success story here. Biological E's Biovac-A, a live-attenuated vaccine developed domestically, has been used in the private sector for more than two decades with excellent safety and efficacy records.

Unlike typhoid vaccines, Hepatitis A vaccines do not face issues of waning immunity, antibiotic resistance, or carrier states. A single dose of the live vaccine can confer durable, long-term protection. From a public health perspective, it is a model vaccine: safe, effective, long-lasting, and already made in India.

Hepatitis A is the low-hanging fruit of vaccine-preventable diseases: a single-dose, long-lasting, with an indigenous product ready for universal use

Both typhoid and Hepatitis A cause significant illness, but their epidemiology and control prospects differ sharply. Typhoid mortality has declined with prompt antibiotic treatment and better sanitation, though antimicrobial resistance remains a concern. Hepatitis A, on the other hand, strikes indiscriminately across socio-economic groups, lacks specific treatment, and increasingly affects older children and young adults, where the disease is more severe.

Measurable criteria

When judged by measurable criteria – disease burden, vaccine efficacy, durability, cost-effectiveness, and programmatic simplicity – the balance tilts decisively toward Hepatitis A. It is the low-hanging fruit of vaccine-preventable diseases: a single-dose, long-lasting, with an indigenous product ready for universal use.

India could begin by introducing Hepatitis A vaccination in States that have experienced repeated outbreaks or show declining antibody prevalence. The vaccine can be co-administered with existing boosters such as DPT or MR, using the same infrastructure. Periodic serosurveys can track population immunity and guide expansion. This phased approach aligns with the UIP's proven model of gradual, evidence-based rollout.

This is not an argument against typhoid vaccination; it is a plea for rational sequencing. Typhoid control is important, but Hepatitis A control is both easier and more cost-effective at this stage. The disease burden is substantial, the vaccine is home-grown, and the science is clear.

India's immunisation programme has repeatedly shown foresight – from the early inclusion of Hepatitis B to the introduction of rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines. Adding Hepatitis A would be a natural next step in that continuum of progress.

(Dr. Vipin M. Vashishtha is former national convener, IAP Committee on Immunisation. vipinipsita@gmail.com)

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M BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan navy so far in 2025

328 At least 328 Indian fishermen have been arrested and 41 trawlers seized so far this year for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters. The country's Deputy Minister of Fisheries Rathna Gamage said Sri Lanka has intensified the operations to stop "illegal fishing" by Indian trawlers. PTI

Amount pledged by Nordic, Baltic countries to Ukraine

500 In $ million. Nordic and Baltic countries announced that they would contribute $500 million to a scheme set up to purchase U.S. weapons for Ukraine. The mechanism was launched by President Donald Trump and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in July. PTI

Outlay to enhance competitiveness for exporters

45,000 In ₹ crore. The government on Wednesday approved the Export Promotion Mission and the Credit Guarantee Scheme. The two schemes are expected to enhance competitiveness of domestic goods in the global markets. PTI

Driver's licences for immigrants revoked by California

17,000 California plans to revoke 17,000 commercial driver's licenses given to immigrants after discovering the expiration dates had passed when the drivers were legally allowed to be in the U.S., state officials said on Wednesday. PTI

Number of Naxals killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh

6 Maoist leaders, Urmila, wife of senior operative Papa Rao, as well as Buchanna Kudiyam, are among the six Naxalites killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. The six, who were gunned down carried a total bounty of ₹27 lakh. PTI

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How is SEC ensuring fair elections?

How will Maharashtra's State Election Commission tackle duplicate and missing entries? Who can raise objections and how will they be resolved? Will the Opposition's concerns on the electoral rolls be addressed? What steps ensure voters don't cast multiple ballots?

EXPLAINER

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

The story so far:
Following the Supreme Court's directions, Maharashtra will hold local body elections in three phases, beginning on December 2. The first phase covers 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats, while the second will include 32 of 34 zilla parishads and 336 of 351 panchayat samitis. The municipal corporation elections will be held in the last phase. The court has directed that all elections be completed by January 31, 2026. The exercise comes amid Opposition criticism of errors and duplication in the voters' lists.

Can the State Election Commission delete duplicate names?
No. The State Election Commission (SEC) does not have the right to add or delete names from the voters' lists. As per constitutional provisions, 'superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of elections to urban and rural local bodies vest in the SEC.' However, under the provisions of the five different Local Body Acts of the State, the SEC does not prepare a separate voters' list for these elections. Instead, it uses the voter's lists prepared by the Election Commission under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, by bifurcating them to represent the relevant wards of the local bodies concerned.

For the upcoming local body elections, the Maharashtra SEC will use the electoral list as of July 1, 2025, which means the list containing inclusions and changes made by the Chief Electoral Officer up to that date. However, the cut-off date for first-time voters was not revised after January 1, 2025. As a result, young voters who turned 18 after January 2025 have expressed disappointment at being unable to vote in the forthcoming elections.

Plan in motion: A tool will be used to identify duplicate names on the voters' list using four filters. PTI

What does the SEC do?
The SEC is responsible for the delimitation of all the Assembly constituencies in wards. This involves dividing the names of voters listed under each Assembly constituency into the respective wards.

Under the revised voters' list programme, beginning November 20, the SEC will invite objections and suggestions on the draft voters' lists for the municipal corporation elections. The exercise will continue until December 12 and include the publication of the draft voters' list on November 20, followed by the submission of objections and suggestions until November 27. The final ward-wise voters' lists, after incorporating valid objections and suggestions, will be published on December 5.

The list of polling centres will be published on December 8, and the final polling centre-wise voters' list will be released on December 12.

Will the exercise address the issues raised by the Opposition?
The Opposition has said that the revised programme does not address all the issues they had raised. For example, they raised issues about the electoral lists' opaqueness, double voters, bulk voters on the same address, voters with zero address, and illegal names from outside the State registered in the list.

The SEC officials said that during the revision exercise, four kinds of objections can be raised: when a voter's name appears in the Assembly election list but is missing from the local body list; when a voter's name is assigned to the wrong ward; when there are duplicate entries; and when multiple voters are registered at the same address.

While the SEC cannot add or delete names, it will mark double and doubtful entries, officials said. A tool will be used to identify duplicate names on the Assembly voters' list using four filters: first name, middle name, last name, and gender. When the Chief Electoral Officers receive the list of duplicate names, they will mark these entries with stars and undertake a field verification.

Here, the voters will have to give an undertaking about the booth at which they will vote. These undertakings will be kept with the marked copies of the electoral rolls at each polling centre to ensure that no voter votes in more than one place.

The Opposition, however, has questioned the feasibility of the exercise in such a short span. "Also, what if the list itself is defective? Clearly, nothing can be done about it, since it comes under the purview of the Central Election Commission. This does not address the many concerns we have raised," an Opposition leader said.

THE GIST

- Maharashtra's local body elections will be held in three phases from December 2, with all elections to be completed by January 31, 2026.
- The SEC cannot add or delete names, but it will delimit constituencies, publish draft voters' lists, and mark double and doubtful entries for verification.
- While the SEC's revision addresses some issues, the Opposition questions its feasibility, particularly if the base list itself is defective.

Can T.N.'s reforms change transgender healthcare?

What lessons does Tamil Nadu offer in building inclusive, rights-based healthcare?

Rajalakshmi RamPrakash

The story so far:
"Leave no one behind," a core principle of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage, urges governments to prioritise healthcare for the most marginalised. Yet, transgender persons continue to face significant barriers to affordable, quality healthcare. Tamil Nadu has emerged as a pioneer in addressing these inequities through inclusive public health policies and welfare schemes that recognise the intersection of health, dignity, and social rights.

Why do transgender persons face healthcare barriers?
Transgender persons encounter multiple, overlapping barriers. First, few healthcare providers are trained in transgender health, and they are often restricted to managing sexually transmitted infections or gender-affirming surgeries, neglecting the comprehensive, lifelong health needs. Second, systemic exclusion from education, housing, employment, and social security leaves many without stable income or insurance. Third, stigma and discrimination in health settings, along with poor awareness among both providers and the public, create hostile healthcare environments that erode trust in the health system. As a result, many transgender persons either delay or avoid seeking medical attention altogether.

What has Tamil Nadu done?
Tamil Nadu stands as a pioneer in transgender-inclusive healthcare. Since 2008, the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai has offered gender-affirming surgeries, supported by India's first Transgender Welfare Board. This began many years before the 2019 Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act mandated such services in at least one government hospital per State. Acting on sustained demands from the community, the National Health Mission (Tamil Nadu) established Gender Guidance Clinics (GGCs) in 2018 to provide multidisciplinary care under one roof. By 2025, eight districts in the State host GGCs, offering free gender-affirming procedures. Between April 2019 and March 2024, 7,644 transgender individuals accessed these clinics.

How has Tamil Nadu expanded insurance coverage?
Tamil Nadu has integrated gender-affirming surgeries and hormonal therapy into the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS-PMJAY) in 2022. Previously funded through hospital budgets, these services are now covered under a five-year (2022-27) policy with the United India Insurance Company, making India the first South Asian country to include transgender care in universal health coverage. The Centre's 2022 PMJAY-Ayushman Bharat TG Plus scheme offers over 50 free procedures, but Tamil Nadu's implementation, now in its fourth year, is more advanced.

To enhance accessibility, the State government removed the ₹72,000 annual income cap for CMCHIS-PMJAY enrolment and waived the requirement for a ration card bearing the transgender person's name, recognising that barriers to healthcare extend beyond income to include stigma, discrimination, and family rejection. Based on a forthcoming WHO case study, as of October 2025, over 5,200 transgender individuals are enrolled in the scheme, with more than 600 undergoing gender-affirming surgeries or hormone therapy in 12 public and private empanelled hospitals.

How have policy and legal reforms strengthened this model?
The 2019 Transgender Act (Section 15) mandates comprehensive healthcare, and Tamil Nadu has begun moving the needle. In October 2024, the National Health Mission trained doctors from GGCs on the World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care, Version 8.

The Madras High Court has reinforced transgender rights through rulings on marriage, curriculum reform, banning conversion therapy and intersex surgeries, reopening GGCs post-COVID, ending police harassment, and reducing societal prejudice. The 2019 Tamil Nadu Mental Health Care Policy and the 2025 State Policy for Transgender Persons further affirm healthcare, education, and property rights.

What challenges remain?
While Tamil Nadu has set a benchmark for transgender-inclusive healthcare, challenges remain.

GGCs must expand to provide comprehensive primary-to-tertiary care, publish a dedicated health manual, regularly build provider competencies and hold them accountable, regulate empanelled hospitals, progressively include mental health in benefit packages, establish grievance mechanisms, encourage research, and tackle societal bias through cross-sectoral action. Engaging transgender communities at all stages of policy and implementation for transgender health is non-negotiable.

Only sustained commitment and action can transform Tamil Nadu's promising model into lasting equity for transgender persons.

(Rajalakshmi RamPrakash, PhD, is currently a Consultant with WHO (Geneva)-Human Reproduction Programme. Views are personal)

THE GIST

- Tamil Nadu has emerged as a pioneer in transgender-inclusive healthcare, establishing Gender Guidance Clinics and integrating gender-affirming care into public insurance.
- While challenges persist, the model reflects the "leave no one behind" principle in action, offering a roadmap for equity and inclusion.

HC refuses to stay tribunal's order quashing probe against Alok Kumar

The Division Bench has permitted the State government to make a plea for an early disposal of the petition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to stay the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) recent order of quashing the departmental proceedings initiated by the State government in May this year against senior IPS officer Alok Kumar in connection with the 2019 case of leaked audio clip of lawfully intercepted phone calls.

A Division Bench comprising Justice B.M. Shyam Prasad and Justice T.M. Nadaf passed the interim order refusing to stay the CAT's verdict while hearing a petition filed by the

Alok Kumar

State government, which has questioned the correctness of the tribunal's order.

"This court is of the view that the stay of the Tribunal's order would result in commencement of the proceedings which has remained stayed for the last seven to eight months, and that the circumstances are not exceptional to permit the same...", the Bench observed in its interim order.

Meanwhile, the Bench permitted the government to make a plea for an early disposal of the petition.

The Chief Secretary, based on the orders of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on May 9, 2025, had issued a notice, along with the charge memo to Mr. Kumar under Rule 8 (4) of the All-India Services (Discipline and Appeals) Rules, 1969.

Mr. Kumar, who is presently an Additional Director-General of Police (Training), had challenged this before the CAT.

The CAT found that the May 9 decision was contrary to the law as the former Chief Minister Basavara Bommai in 2023 had found it not necessary to hold any departmental proceedings and the present Chief Minister had no new material for him to review the 2023 decision. The tribunal had also noted that file put up before Mr. Siddaramaiah was approval for communicating 2023 decision to the CBI and not for reviewing the earlier decision.

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has set aside the charge memo, issued by the State government this May, on the orders of Mr. Siddaramaiah, to senior IPS officer Mr. Kumar. This is in connection with the 2019 case of leaked audio clip of lawfully intercepted phone calls. Then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in 2023 found it not necessary to hold any departmental proceedings.

The CBI, which had conducted a probe into allegation of leaked audio-clip of lawfully intercepted phone calls, though had filed 'closure report' before jurisdiction trial court it had then recommended the State government to conduct departmental enquiry on the issue of leaked clips.

Woman injured as leopard claws her through safari bus window in BBP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A woman who was taking the non-AC bus safari at the Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP) in Bengaluru was injured after a leopard clawed her. This is the second such incident in four months.

According to a statement by Surya Sen A.V., Deputy Conservator of Forests and Executive Director, Bannerughatta Biological Park, the incident occurred around 1 p.m. on Thursday. The injured woman has been identified as Vahitha Banu, 56. She sustained a minor injury to her hand when a leopard, while attempting to climb onto the bus, accidentally

A leopard, while attempting to climb onto the bus, accidentally clawed the woman. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

clawed her, Mr. Sen said in a statement. "She was immediately taken to the nearest hospital for first aid and was examined for any further injuries and is fine with a minor injury," the statement added.

Non-AC bus safaris have now been suspended indefinitely following the incident. "All the safari drivers were warned about the previous incident of leopard attack and were instructed to take precautionary safety measures inside leopard safari. However, the authorities are reviewing the incident and non-AC bus safari will be stopped indefinitely till further communication and the buses will be assessed for complete safety during the downtime," the release further stated.

In August, a 12-year-old boy was clawed by a leopard at the BBP. The boy had placed his hand near a window and was clawed by a leopard, which had reportedly climbed on the bus.

Repeated snags on Yellow Line raise concern among commuters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A senior BMRCL official says the glitches were minor and part of early stabilisation phase of a new line

The newly opened Yellow Line continues to face scrutiny from daily commuters after yet another technical snag disrupted services on Wednesday, marking the fourth incident since the line was opened to the public on August 11.

The 18.82-km corridor, which connects R.V. Road to Bommasandra and serves thousands of office-goers travelling to major employment hubs such as Electronics City, has experienced disruptions on September 22, October 12, October 16, and now November 12. Each snag has occurred during peak travel hours, leaving passengers anxious and raising questions about the reliability of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) newest line.

Wednesday's disruption, caused by a technical issue in the signalling system, brought trains to a halt between stations for several minutes. Although services resumed after rectification, the incident added to growing frustration among regular travellers.

Responding to the concerns, a senior BMRCL official said that the glitches were minor and part of the early stabilisation phase of a new line. "Each incident was triggered by a different issue, and none of the faults were repetitive or linked to a specific train set. The Yellow Line operates a newer generation of trains compared to the Purple and Green Lines, and during the transition to this advanced system, occasional technical fine-tuning is normal. These are only initial teething problems, and all trains have undergone thorough testing as per protocol," the official said.

The Yellow Line is the first in the metro network to introduce driverless trains supported by the advanced Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC) signalling system, representing a major technological upgrade from the older Distance-to-Go (DTG) system used on the Purple and Green Lines.

KSRTC launches Flybus service between KIA and Davangere

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) launched a new direct Flybus (Volvo multi-axle) service between Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru and Davangere.

The new service will operate two daily trips in each direction. The buses will depart from the airport at 12.45 a.m. and 10 a.m. The return trips from Davangere will be at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. En route, passengers can board or alight at Tumakuru Bypass and Chitradurga Bypass. Currently, the KSRTC operates 13 flybus routes covering Mysuru, Madikeri, Davangere, and Kundapur.

Lokayukta inspection exposes irregularities in govt.-run hostel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A surprise inspection by the Lokayukta at a government-run student hostel has uncovered large-scale irregularities, including unauthorised student admissions, misuse of funds, and poor administration.

Based on a complaint alleging mismanagement and irregularities in the hostel operations, a team of officials led by Lokayukta Justice B.S. Patil inspected the Government Science College Boys' Hostel on M.G. Road on Thursday. This was part of a series of raids on 28 government hostels in and around the city.

Probe revealed that the hostel, which has a sanctioned capacity of 275 students, was accommodating 373 students, far exceeding its approved limit. The officials found that several students were admitted without proper verification or eligibility documents, and records related to admissions, attendance, and welfare schemes were either incomplete or tampered with.

The inspection found that around ₹25,000 collected under the Student Welfare Fund was allegedly misused, with no proper accounting or receipts.

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website:www.osmcl.nic.in; Email:proc.osmcl.od@od.gov.in

Notification No.9482/OSMCL/2025 Date : 10.11.2025

NOTICE INVITING Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Fibroscan Machine for DHHs under NHM PIP 2024-26 and SCB MC&H, Cuttack

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/ 2025-26/ Fibroscan_EQP/08	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Fibroscan Machine for DHHs under NHM PIP 2024-26 and SCB MC&H, Cuttack.	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	10/11/2025, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	17/11/2025, 11.30 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		27/11/2025, 3 PM	18/12/2025, 5 PM
4.	Date& time of Online Technical bid Opening	23/12/2025, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The Authority reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

CAD-2272

Managing Director, OSMCL

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-32-1
Dated : 07-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following items.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification for Shifting of Insulated Overlaps in Hubballi Division.	Rs. 1,62,65,117/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 16:00 Hrs on 04-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Hubballi
PUB/636/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/133/2025 Dated : 29-07-2025

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
RFP for Construction of New Broad Gauge line including Electrical, Signal & Telecommunication works between Jumlapur Road (Excl) Ch: 75400 and Gurgunta (incl) Ch: 134950 (59.55 km) under Gadag - Wadi New line Project on EPC Mode. **(Tender Ref. No. JUMLAPUR-GURGUNTA-EPC)**	Rs. 964,51,54,197/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Modified
25-11-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	29-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/634/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, Gopal Shetty S/o Ramanna Shetty, Bangalore-560099 have changed my name from Gopala Shetty S/o Ramanna Shetty to Gopal Shetty S/o Ramanna shetty vide affidavit dated 13.09.2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/21
Dated : 06-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Shifting of 220/25kv Traction Transformers between BID Traction Sub-Station and WFD Traction Sub-Station including dismantling, transportation, erection and commissioning.	Rs. 46,87,992/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 28-11-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Traction Distribution / Bengaluru
PUB/630/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Open Tender Notice No: S/RWP/E/2025-26/13, Dated: 12.11.2025. Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender",** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14.00 hrs. **SN. 1. Tender No. :** 02255189, **Short Description of item :** TOTARY TRACK, HEARTH SUPPORTING ROLLER ASSEMBLY, HEARTH CENTERING ROLLER ASSEMBLY AND RACK CASTING., **Quantity :** 02 Set (74 Nos.), **Date of Tender Closing/Opening :** 25.11.2025 at 14.00 Hrs. **SN. 2. Tender No. :** 02255225, **Short Description of item :** SERVO MOTOR, **Quantity :** 05 Nos., **Date of Tender Closing/Opening :** 01.12.2025 at 14.00 Hrs. **1.** Website address on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in**. **2.** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation** with respect to the above tender.

PCMM, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/77

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 37 UBL 2025-26
Dated : 06.11.2025
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Hubballi Division- Supply of water Can to Level Crossing gates and gang units under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Gadag Jurisdiction (Total 25 gang units and 63 gates) for a period of 02 Years.	Rs. 15,15,800/-
2	Hubballi Division- **Sub Work-I:** Bijapur – Hotgi Section-CTR(P) in patches in DN line for a length of 10.4 TKM. **Sub Work-II:** Gadag-Hotgi Section- TRR(P)-40.9TKM (D-mark mail rail renewal) in patches in Nimbal-Hotgi Section. **Sub Work-III:** Gadag-Hotgi Section-TRR(P)-31.3 TKM in patches in Bijapur-Nimbal Section.	Rs. 15,32,56,899/-
3	Hubballi Division- Supply of AT Weld in Sr.DEN/West/ Hubballi Jurisdiction	Rs. 1,11,02,462/-
4	Hubballi Division : Proposed rehabilitation-Replacement of Br 189 at KM 723-297 with RCC Box bridge in Londa-Miraj section in between Ugarkhurd and Shedbal Stations.	Rs. 1,01,55,502/-
5	Hubballi Division : Supply of water Can to Level Crossing gates and gang units under Assistant Divisional Engineer/West/Hubballi sub Division for a period of 24 Months.	Rs. 7,40,675/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11.00 Hours on 04-12-2025**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Hubballi
PUB/633/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point
Mumbai - 400 021. Tel.: 022 61884700
E-Mail : sys@pegasus-arc.com, URL : pegasus-arc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE BY E-AUCTION

Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the below described secured assets being immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor being, **M/s Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited** acting in its capacity as **Trustee of Pegasus - 2023 Trust 3 (Pegasus),** having been assigned the debts of the below mentioned Borrower along with underlying securities interest by **M/s PNB Housing Finance Ltd (PNBHFL) vide Assignment Agreement Dated 30.09.2022** under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

The physical possession of the below described immovable property is with Pegasus being the secured creditor and is being sold under the provisions of SARFAESI Act and Rules thereunder on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis.** The details of Auction are as follows :

Name of the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) and Mortgagors :	**Late Ryan Conrad Mazumdar (Since deceased and now being represented by his legal hiers) Mrs. Tarina Basu (Co Borrower / Guarantor and legal heir of borrower)**
Outstanding Dues for which the secured assets are being sold :	**Rs. 3,73,35,779.14/- (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Three Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine and Paisa Fourteen Only) due as on 12.11.2025** along with further interest at contractual rate and cost, charges and expenses thereon till the date of payment and realization.
Details of Secured Asset being Immovable Property which is being sold	All that piece and parcel of residential Flat No.203, 2nd floor, Imperial Navkis Celeste, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054 with built up area of 2201 Square Feet bounded by : **North :** Private property, **South :** 35 Feet Tar Road, **East :** Private property, **West :** Private property.
CERSAI ID :	**Security Interest ID : 400009516126 Asset ID : 200009499147**
Reserve Price below which the Secured Asset will not be sold (In Rs.) :	**Rs. 1,20,34,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakh Thirty-Four Thousand Only).**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :	**Rs. 12,03,400/-(Rupees Twelve Lakh Three Thousand Four Hundred Only)**
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value.	A notice has been affixed to the property by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claiming pending charges. The buyer needs to ascertain the same prior to submission of the bid . All such charges pendingif any shall be borne by the buyer.
Inspection of Properties :	**19.11.2025**
Contact Person and Phone No. :	**Bhaskar Sarat Turaga, (M) : 9902045750 Shankar Balasubramanian (M) : 8056178676 Vivek Arayakat (M) : 9962229588**
Last date for submission of Bid :	**28.11.2025 till 4:00 PM**
Time and Venue of Bid Opening :	**E-Auction / Bidding through Website : (https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) on 01.12.2025 from 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM.**

This publication is also a Fifteen (15) days' notice to the aforementioned Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors under Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. For the detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to Secured Creditor's website i.e. **http://www.pegasus-arc.com/assets-to-auction.html or website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net or Contact Service provider E Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger Bidder Support Nos: 079-68136805 / 68136837 Mobile :+919265562821 & 9374519754, Email : vijay.shetty@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net** before submitting any bid.

Authorised Officer
Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.
(Acting in its capacity as Trustee of the Pegasus - 2023 Trust 3)

Date : 13-11-2025
Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase residential flat bearing No. 704 located on the seventh floor of the building known as Ansal Krsna-I, more fully described in the schedule below **('Schedule Property')**, from Mrs. **Tara Gupta,** and Mr. **Rahul Bindlish,** wife and son of late Mr. Rajkumar Gupta **('Owners'),** both residing at Flat No. B3-1102, L&T South City, Arekere, Mico Layout, Bangalore - 560076.

The Owners have represented that they are the joint and absolute owners of the Schedule Property and that the Schedule Property is not the subject matter of any other subsisting and valid mortgages, lien or charges in favour of anyone and that there are no pending litigations and/or any subsisting and valid agreements for sale or the like executed by the Owners in respect of the Schedule Property.

If any person/s have any manner of right to, interest in or claim against the Schedule Property including but not limited to any encumbrance thereon by way of a charge, mortgage or lien or being a party to any Agreement for Sale or the like or any litigations in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may, within **15 (fifteen) days** hereof submit to us such a claim together with documentary proof in support thereof, failing which, it shall be presumed that there are no encumbrances, charges or lien or any valid and subsisting Agreements for Sale or the like or any Litigations, or any other claim, right, title or interest in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential flat bearing No. 704 located on the seventh floor of the building known as Ansal Krsna-I, having super built-up area of 1316 square feet, constructed on Survey Nos. 66/1, 66/2, 66/3 and 66/4, situated at Hosur Road, Adugodi Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore (Corporation ward No. 63).

TANMAYEE RAJKUMAR, (Advocate)
KING & PARTRIDGE ADVOCATES,
NO. 48, LAVELLE ROAD,
BENGALURU - 560 001.
Ph. No. 080 22212341 / 42
BANGALORE DATE: 12th November 2025

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 31st October 2025

S.O. 4963(E)--In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act). the central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special railway project, in lieu of Level crossing No. 33 (Pandithanahalli Gate) for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road and RUB", in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru for ROB / RUB's in lieu of level crossing No. 33 (Pandithanahalli gate) for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road and RUB in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer. Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure. falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 33 (Pandithanahalli gate) for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road and RUB in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: TUMAKURU **TALUK: TUMAKURU**
HOBLI: URDIGERE **VILLAGE: PANDITHANAHALLI**

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Beneficiary	Acquired Extent (In Acres - Guntas)				Classification of land
			Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	
1	50/3	B.G. Gangahanumegowda S/o. Gangappa	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
2	53/3	Gowramma W/o. Late Hanumanthaiah, Lakshmamma W/o. Late Lakshmaiah	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	Dry
3	55/1	Narasimhaiah and Narasimhamurthy Sons of Narasamma, Lakshmaiah S/o. Anjani, Hanumanthaiah S/o. Anjani, Gangamma S W/o. Satheesh, Siddaiah S/o. Ramaiah, H. Gangahanumaiah S/o. Hanumarasaiah, Chikkahanumaiah S/o. Hanumaiah, L. Narasahanumaiah S/o. Lenkappa	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
4	56	Narasimhamurthy D.P. S/o. Late Doddaiah	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry
5	56	Kulalavadi Inam, Puttahanuma, Danahanuma, Sanjeeva, Gangahanumaiah, Lenkahanuma, Gangamma W/o. Huchahanuma	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-2 1/2	Dry
6	57/6	M.N. Lakshmikanthaiah S/o. Narasegowda	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Alienated Land
7	Road	National Highway-48 to towards North, Pandithanahalli Village Road, From Sy.No. 50/3 to Sy.No. 57/4	0-33	-	0-33	-	Govt.
		Total	**1-06 1/2**	**-**	**0-33**	**0-13 1/2**	**-**

ABSTRACT

Dry	Alienated Land	Kharab	Total
0-13	0-00 1/2	0-33	1-06 1/2

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/637/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

ABSTRACT

Holding up GLASS to India; securing stewardship to tackle AMR

Antimicrobial resistance in India is a 'serious and escalating threat', with resistance rates among the highest in the world; comprehensive action is needed, including surveillance, rational antibiotic use, public awareness, and sustained funding to reduce AMR and protect community health

Ramya Kannan

GETTY IMAGES

Around mid-October 2025, when the World Health Organisation (WHO) released its Global antibiotic resistance surveillance report 2025 (GLASS), there was hardly any surprise in the quarters in which antimicrobial resistance usually gets a rise. No one was surprised that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in India "is a serious and escalating threat, with resistance rates among the highest in the world."

The report, which draws on data from over 100 countries, noted: In 2023, approximately one in three bacterial infections in India were resistant to commonly used antibiotics, mirroring severe trends across South-East Asia. Globally, the report said, one in six confirmed infections were resistant, with India disproportionately affected due to factors including high infectious disease burden, overuse and misuse of antibiotics, and gaps in surveillance and healthcare infrastructure.

For India, the report underlined the following aspects: High resistance rates to major antibiotics, especially in serious infections such as those caused by E.coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, and Staphylococcus aureus, particularly in hospital ICUs; the challenging factors that aggravate AMR are widespread over-the-counter antibiotic access, self-medication, incomplete courses, environmental contamination (from pharmaceutical manufacturing and hospital waste), and uneven enforcement of regulations.

The report also provided a hat tip to national initiatives such as the National Programme on AMR Containment and the growing lab network in India, in trying to stem the tide, but concluded that several significant issues remain to be addressed, including insufficient funding and limited coordination between human, animal, and environmental health.

While India participates actively in GLASS, most surveillance data comes from tertiary hospitals, not fully representing the community or rural areas. Notably, India enrolled in the WHO's GLASS in 2017.

Incomplete data

Abdul Ghafur, senior consultant, infectious diseases, says: "The AMR levels in India are among the highest globally, particularly for gram-negative pathogens. This is entirely consistent with the national surveillance data from ICMR's AMRSN / i-AMRSS and NCDC's NARS-Net." These are two complementary surveillance networks for AMR in India.

Dr. Ghafur says, these datasets have a fundamental limitation in that they largely originate from top tertiary care hospitals (medical colleges or referral centres) where severe, complicated infections and high antibiotic pressure are common. "This does not incorporate bacterial susceptibility data from the vast network of secondary or primary care hospitals, which see very different patient populations, antibiotic usage patterns, and microbiological ecologies. The result is that the national "resistance rates" we cite are likely a biased overestimate of the country-wide average – reflecting the more extreme end of the spectrum rather than the full distribution of resistance." V. Ramasubramanian, senior infectious diseases specialist, also touches upon the issue of inconsistent representation. "This is a vast nation with huge diversity, we need to have [AMR surveillance] centres spread across the country. Unless we correctly interpret susceptibility patterns, we may be drawing erroneous conclusions."

The WHO too urges for more complete nationwide surveillance, rational antibiotic use, and stronger regulation, warning that without urgent improvements, routine infections in India may increasingly become untreatable, leading to higher mortality and pressure on the healthcare system.

Kerala model

A key factor for the worsening situation is attributed to snail's pace progress on implementation of India's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR). "While the national framework set a strong vision in 2017, only a few States have formally launched or operationalised their State Action Plans on AMR; even among these, most remain in the very early stages of execution," Dr. Ghafur explains.

Apart from Kerala, no other State has done anything significant in terms of AMR, adds Dr. Ramasubramanian. The Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Strategic Action Plan was rolled out in 2018 and took the path of inter-sectoral collaborations and One Health to handle AMR. The State went on to launch "AMRITH" (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health) in January 2024 to stop the over-the-counter (OTC) sale of antibiotics. In the latest antibiogram released by the State government, a slight dip has been noticed in AMR levels.

AMR literacy

Kerala also aims to become antibiotic-literate by December 2025 through awareness programmes and proper antibiotic use initiatives. Yewande Alimi, One Health Unit Lead, Africa CDC, says the key now is for the world to have a basic understanding of the role of bacteria. "We need to spread information very early about the importance of the bacterial world in our life," she said during a recent webinar on Antimicrobial Resistance – A Global Health Security Crisis organised by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), in collaboration with the University of Miami Public Health Policy Lab.

Ella Balasa, patient advocate and consultant, also fleshed out the same theme. "Awareness is really valuable. I would suggest we bring together large non profit groups, bring a face to the crisis and problem. That is the way by which we can get the general population to relate to the issue more easily. That is currently where we have the disconnect: AMR to the general population is abstract. We must humanise it, and bring it into their lives, that's how we are going to bring solutions."

Colistin ban

One significant intervention that has benefitted the country is the 2019 ban on colistin – being widely used as a growth agent in animal husbandry in India until then. Dr. Ramasubramanian says: "Intuitively, we know it will help, but quantification of how much it has helped will only be possible after long-term studies". Simply and consistently implementing State and national policies on AMR will go a long way in ameliorating the situation, he adds.

There is little doubt that but for pockets of progress, India's antibiotics stewardship is all but flailing and needs resuscitation. The thing is we do know what to do, experts say. For a first, it is essential to bring in more centres reporting resistance, Dr. Ghafur insists: "To obtain truly representative national estimates, India must adopt a full-network model: draw in the 500+ NABL labs that already exist, and invest in building microbiology capacity in peripheral and primary care tiers."

Newer antibiotics

Tackling the problem from the other side would be to develop newer antibiotic models. Vasan Sambandamurthy, Senior Vice President at Bugworks Research Inc, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company that is developing novel class of broad-spectrum antibacterial agents and immunotherapies, points out that several antibiotics have been launched in the last two years. In India, the approval of the CDSCO has been granted to four new antibiotic candidates while six other candidates have received approval for use globally.

He adds: "What is encouraging is that the 2024 WHO report on the antibiotic development pipeline shows a modest increase in antibacterial agents, with 97 candidates in clinical and preclinical stages in 2023 versus just 80 in 2021. Unfortunately, the pipeline remains thin in terms of truly innovative antibiotics. Only 12 of the 32 traditional antibiotics in development meet WHO innovation criteria (new class, new mode of action, no cross-resistance), and just four target WHO's highest priority critical pathogens, particularly MDR Gram-negative bacteria."

Dr. Sambandamurthy says the availability of newer antibiotics in India does have the potential to significantly alter the AMR landscape. But, despite this sliver of hope, the current clinical pipeline and recently-approved antibiotics are insufficient to tackle the global AMR challenge given the significant gaps in their spectrum, and availability across Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC).

He says "new antibiotics should possess novel mechanisms of action or belong to new classes that bypass existing resistance pathways. They must target WHO's highest priority MDR pathogens, including carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales and Acinetobacter baumannii. In addition, demonstrating broad efficacy against MDR strains, offering both oral and intravenous formulations, and having a strong safety profile are essential. Furthermore, these antibiotics should suppress further resistance development, be accessible and affordable globally, especially in LMICs, and align with antimicrobial stewardship principles."

Global efforts and funding

It's important to understand the role of the AMR Industry Alliance in countering AMR globally. Dr. Sambandamurthy who sits on the board of this alliance says the organisation aims at accelerating discovery and development of new antibiotics and diagnostic tools and strengthening equitable access to antibiotics, especially in LMICs, and implementing responsible antibiotic manufacturing standards.

Ultimately, funding shortages need to be tackled head on, Dr. Ghafur stresses: "Beyond the modest surveillance funding and a few innovation grants, there has been very little sustained financial or policy investment. Industry engagement, public awareness, and innovation funding are sporadic and small in scale." This needs to change.

Just around the corner, this year's World AMR Awareness Week (18-24 November) urges the world to "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future." For India, it means embracing the staggering breadth of the problem and employing multi-pronged strategies that will improve its stewardship, resulting in reducing the rates of AMR in the community. If one State has managed to do that, then it is proof that what seems like a tide can indeed be stemmed.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"I didn't see you on Friday. Where were you?"

"I was in prison. You see, I had to...."

"Good heavens! Why? What happened?"

"Nothing happened! You see the entire class was in prison that day. We...."

"Are you sure?"

"Of course. I am sure. Our teacher took us there."

"I see. Were you 'in prison' or 'in the prison'?"

"You mean to say that there is a difference between the two?"

"When you say, 'Ram was in prison when the accident happened,' it means that at the time of the accident, Ram was in jail. He was a prisoner. For example, some of our leaders spent many years in prison during our struggle for Independence."

"Meaning that they spent many years as prisoners inside the jail?"

"That's right!"

"Nowadays, many of our crooked politicians refuse to go to prison even when they have to."

"Nelson Mandela spent many years in prison."

"I know! Tell me, what does 'in the prison' mean?"

"If you say 'Ram was in the prison when the accident happened', it means that Ram was inside the prison when the accident happened. But...."

"....so it means the same thing as 'in prison'?"

"In the prison' means that you are inside the prison. You could be there as a visitor."

"I could be visiting one of the prisoners!"

"That's right."

"The girl went to the prison to meet the warden."

"That's a good example."

"But tell me, are there more such examples where the use or non use of 'the' in a sentence brings about a change in the meaning?"

"Take the following two sentences. 'My mother goes to school every day' and 'My mother goes to the school every day'. The first sentence means that my mother is a student and she attends school every day."

"I see. The new Minister of Education has been to school. This would mean that she has received an education. She has never been a student."

"That's right."

"Tell me, what does 'My mother goes to the school every day' mean?"

"It means that your mother visits a particular school every day. She is not a student there; she merely visits the school."

"I see."

"Now then, can you tell me the difference between 'My father was in hospital when the bomb exploded' and 'My father was in the hospital when the bomb exploded'?"

"'My father was in hospital' probably means that he was a patient in the hospital."

"Very good. When somebody is 'in hospital' he/she is a patient."

"'My father was in the hospital' probably means my father was visiting the hospital when the bomb exploded. Maybe he was visiting a patient there. In this sentence, my father is not the patient. Someone else is."

Published in The Hindu on September 8, 1998

THE DAILY QUIZ

2025 marks 250 years since the birth of English novelist Jane Austen. Here is a quiz of the legacy of the writer and her unforgettable characters

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Abhinaya K

QUESTION 1

How many complete books has the legendary writer written? Which is her shortest book, with just 24 chapters?

QUESTION 2

In 2010, researchers at the University of Liverpool found a protein pheromone in male mouse urine, which was named after an Austen character. Identify the character and the name of the pheromone.

QUESTION 3

"Her own thoughts and reflections were habitually her best companions". Which book is this quote from, and who is the her in question?

QUESTION 4

This popular Austen novel was reportedly originally titled _____. The title change was inspired by the work of another author, *Cecilia*. What was the original title, and identify the other author?

QUESTION 5

Which National Award-winning Tamil movie is based on Austen's novel Sense and Sensibility?

Visual Question:

A 10 Pound U.K. note featuring Austen was released in 2017. It features a quote from which famous novel and who says the line? AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. What was the nom-de-plume assumed by Stevenson when he wrote one of his most famous works, *Treasure Island*? **Ans: Captain George North**

2. Which modern day camping equipment did Stevenson claim to have invented, mentioning it in his book *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes*? **Ans: Sleeping bag**

3. What was the name Stevenson adopted while spending his final years on an island in Samoa? What does it mean? **Ans: Tusitala, teller of tales**

4. Which Stevenson novel features the character cabin boy Ransome? **Ans: *Kidnapped***

5. Name the crime Stevenson was convicted as a student? **Ans: Throwing snowballs**

Name this famous doctor character, depicted by Russel Crowe in the 2016 movie *The Mummy.* Also mention the Stevenson work in which he appears? **Ans: Dr. Jekyll, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**

Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Sunil Madhavan | Sonali Das | Suchit Narottam

Word of the day

Insouciant:
showing a casual lack of concern

Synonyms: calm, carefree, nonchalant

Usage: *She walked into the exam room with an insouciant smile.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/insouciant

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnsuːsiənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Senior sub-registrar stages protest demanding posting

Senior sub-registrar Narayanappa staging a protest in front of Kandaya Bhavan on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A senior sub-registrar, who earned a reputation for not accepting bribes, has been staging a peaceful protest in front of Kandaya Bhavan, Bengaluru, for the past two days, urging the government to assign him a posting after months of uncertainty.

Narayanappa, a senior sub-registrar formerly posted in Chintamani, was transferred three months ago but was not given a new posting. The officer, who became widely known for prominently displaying boards in his office declaring that bribes would not be accepted, said he has been left in limbo ever since.

He served for nearly five years in Chintamani before being transferred without a posting.

To draw attention to his situation, Mr. Narayanappa has placed a board beside him that includes a copy of his application requesting a posting, newspaper clippings that previously cited his 'no-bribe' policy and photographs of his earlier office. Seated with a copy of the Bhagavad Gita in hand, he said his protest would continue until he received a response from the authorities.

No salary, no posting

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Narayanappa said, "I have not received my salary and I have been without a posting for three months. I have repeatedly requested that I be given a posting so that I can work, but so far I have received no information. How am I expected to run my family without a salary and without a job?"

He alleged that although he has submitted applications to the Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps in Bengaluru, he has not heard back. "That is why I decided to hold a peaceful protest here for the last two days. I am appealing through proper channels please assign me to any vacant senior sub-registrar post after counselling," he said.

Commuters urge BMTC to adopt NCMC as city lags in unified mobility

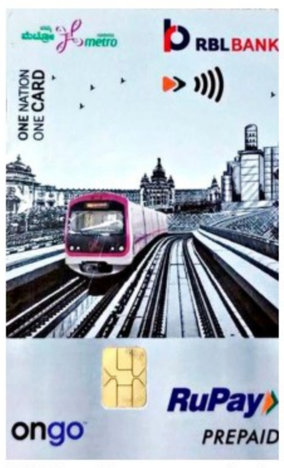
The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. and RBL Bank began issuing NCMC on March 25, 2023, coinciding with the inauguration of the Whitefield–Krishnarajapura metro line

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite being launched with much anticipation more than two years ago, the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) continues to see lukewarm response in Bengaluru, primarily due to the lack of integration with the city's largest public transport provider, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) and RBL Bank began issuing NCMC on March 25, 2023, coinciding with the inauguration of the Whitefield-Krishnarajapura metro line. Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first passenger in the city to use the card, touted as the 'One Nation-One Card' system intended to unify mobility payments across India.

However, more than two years later, the card has failed to gain traction in the city. For instance, on 11 November, only 80,024 passengers used bank-issued NCMC on the metro, while the vast majority continue to rely on the conventional Namma Metro smart card, according to the BMRCL. The BMRCL officials said, "A full-scale shift to the NCMC will be practical only when other transport operators, especially the BMTC, adopts the system."



NCMC used for metro service in Bengaluru.

'A full-scale shift to the NCMC will be practical only when other transport operators, especially BMTC, adopts the system'

'We need one card'

Commuters too have been vocal about the need for integration. "This is something we have been waiting for. I use UPI for almost everything, but the QR code payment system in buses is inconvenient. Once, I even had to request a fellow passenger to move just so I could scan a code stuck near the window. And after paying, the conductor still asked to see my phone screen.

If the BMTC introduces smart ETMs with tap-to-pay using NCMC, the experience will become seamless," said Pavithra K., a daily commuter from BTM Layout to Majestic.

Another commuter, Nithin Varma, a tech professional from Bommanahalli said, "I already have an NCMC that I use for the metro. But it's pointless to carry it because I can't use it on BMTC buses since I take the metro feeder bus everyday to go to the metro station from my home in Kodichikknahalli. Bengaluru should be leading in implementing the NCMC, not lagging behind since many major metro cities already have NCMC in multiple transport modes," he said.

BMTC's delay

The BMTC has been planning to upgrade its Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) to support NCMC and UPI tap-to-pay functionalities. However, the rollout has been repeatedly postponed. The officials said the transition was technically complex and financially heavy.

"Replacing thousands of ETMs across our fleet is not a simple procurement exercise. The new machines must integrate with our existing ticketing software, real-time data systems, and backend settlement mechanisms. Any mismatch can disrupt daily operations. There are also cost considerations, as introducing NCMC-enabled ETMs will require significant investment. We are working to resolve these challenges, but it will take time," a senior BMTC official said.

For now, the lack of integration undermines the very purpose of the NCMC, which was designed as a unified prepaid card usable across various transport networks and retail platforms.

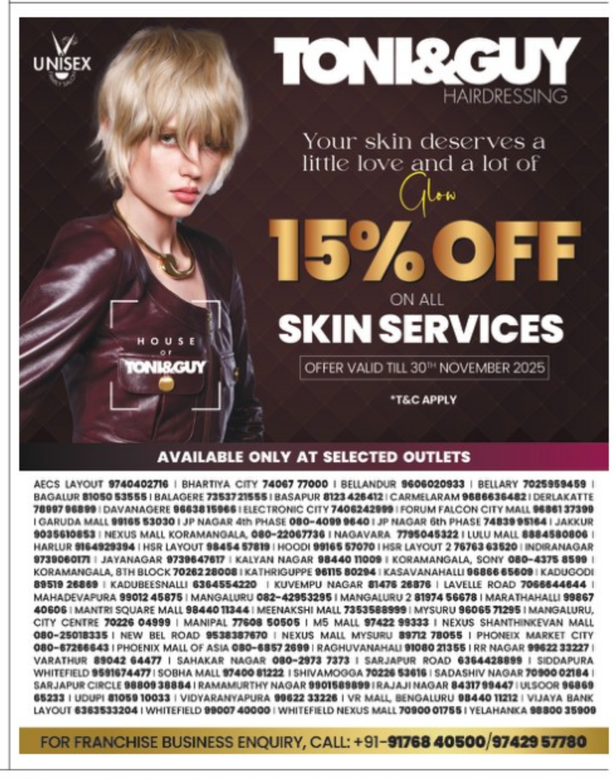
Meanwhile, on World Public Transport Day on 10 November, Bengaluru saw the launch of the Orbit Wallet RuPay prepaid card for employees of Electronics City Industries' Association member companies, a product compliant with NCMC standards.

Union Bank of India celebrates foundation day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Bank of India celebrated its 107th foundation day on Tuesday.

Addressing the staff, Kalyan Varma, Zonal Head, Bengaluru, highlighted that similar celebrations are being held across various cities in India. He emphasized that the day marks a significant milestone in the Bank's history and tradition. It is a time to reflect on the institution's remarkable journey, celebrate present accomplishments, and look forward to a future of continued growth and innovation.



Hiriyara Habba on Nov. 23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vayah Vikas, a Bengaluru-based not-for-profit dedicated to empowering seniors, will host the third edition of *Hiriyara Habba* on November 23, at St. Joseph's Institute of Management.

The festival celebrates active aging through wellness, learning, and joyful engagement. Highlights include senior-run stalls, partner exhibits, awareness sessions on technology and health, and vibrant cultural performances.

Nadoja Baraguru award presentation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The *Nadoja Dr. Baraguru Prathistana*, Bengaluru, will host the Nadoja Baraguru award presentation ceremony on Friday at 5 p.m. in Government Arts College.

For the year 2025, social activist, writer, and former Minister B.T. Lalitha Nayak has been selected for the award in the Literary field, while Shivarudraiah will be honored in the Cinema field.

Retired IAS Officer I.M.Vittalmurthy will present the awards, and chief whip of Karnataka Legislative Council, Saleem Ahmed, will be the chief guest.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, NOV. 14		
RISE	06:18	SET 17:50
RISE	01:30	SET 14:01
SATURDAY, NOV. 15		
RISE	06:18	SET 17:50
RISE	02:16	SET 14:36
SUNDAY, NOV. 16		
RISE	06:19	SET 17:50
RISE	03:02	SET 15:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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A TRIBUTE TO
SAMI-SABINSA GROUP

Rizwan Sami Faazal
April 9, 1999 – November 12, 2025

With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved Rizwan. He will be remembered for his jokes, quirks, his love for music, and the joy he shared with everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his memory serve as a guiding light to us all.

Son of **Faazal Siyo** and **Sami Majeed,** and brother of **Johara Sami Faazal** and **Nazneen Sami Faazal.**
Always and forever, honoured and remembered by **his family and friends. Godspeed.**

And honoured by
The **Board of Directors** and **Employees** of the **Sami-Sabinsa Group.**

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IT policy 2025-30: State to pump in ₹967 crore towards incentives

It seeks to bring investments with special focus on AI and other emerging technologies in cities beyond Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka will be spending ₹967 crore towards varied incentives under the Karnataka Information Technology Policy 2025-2030 that seeks to bring significant investments with special focus on AI and other emerging technologies in cities beyond Bengaluru, and elevate Karnataka's brand globally as 'AI-native destination'.

While 16 incentives, including nine newly added incentives, have been proposed to companies to be located in cities beyond Bengaluru, six major incentives have been proposed to units to be located in Bengaluru.

The financial outlay to implement the fiscal incentives and concessions for a period of five years is ₹754.62 crore. K. MURALI KUMAR

Many types of support

Among the new incentives being introduced are support for faculty development, recruitment assistance, and talent relocation reimbursements. The new policy covers operational costs through electricity duty reimbursement, property tax reimbursement and telecom infrastructure development besides EPF reimbursement, rental assistance and skilling cost reimbursement for companies located beyond Bengaluru. The other incentives include internship cost reimbursement, intellectual property incentive, support faculty development programmes, reimbursement for quality certifications and power tariff concessions among others.

Outlay

The financial outlay to implement the fiscal incentives and concessions for a period of five years is ₹754.62 crore, and ₹212.50 crore has been earmarked for government interventions such as fellowships and other programmes.

The proposed policy expands the scope to provide extension of benefits to Indian-headquartered Global Capacity Centres operating or establishing a presence in Karnataka. It covers both new and expanding entities.

Increasing GSVA

The goal is to increase the IT sector's contribution to Gross State Value Added (GSVA) from 26% to 36% and increase software exports from ₹4.09 lakhs crore to ₹11.5 lakhs crore by 2030, besides driving investments in emerging cities such as Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Tumakuru, Kalaburgi, and Shivamogga. To elevate the State's IT and innovation ecosystem, the government through public-private partnership seeks to estabslihe 'Technoverse', integrated technology campuses within the upcoming Global Innovation Districts.

It will offer future-ready tech eco system with advanced R&D labs, digital virtual testbeds, and sector-focused innovation zones among others.

Digital networks

It seeks to make the State with future ready digital network - Global Testbed Infrastructure Network and Statewide Digital Hub Grid - launch fellowship for 1,000 mid-career women tech professionals, IT talent return programmes, set up ease of doing business cell, and start shared corporate transport - IT Corridor Bus Pooling.

Exemption

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

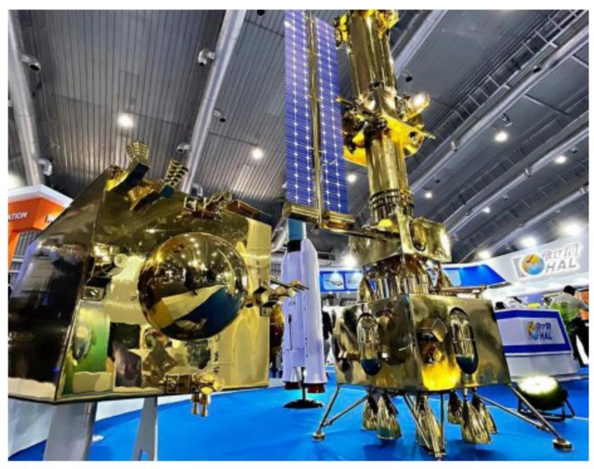
In the non-fiscal support to the IT/ ITeS unit in Karnataka, the policy exempts companies from the applicability of Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules, 1946, for a period of five years, with appropriate clause for the protection of women employees and prevention of sexual harassment in workplace. The companies will be allowed to file self certification for compliance of appropriate laws.

Permission will be given for 24/7 operations to run in three shifts and employment of women in all three shifts. This is subject to taking necessary precautions with respect to safety and security in addition to providing welfare, health, and transport amenities.

Karnataka space tech policy aims to garner 5% of global market share

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to sustain Karnataka as the number one destination for space technology in India and hold 50% of the national market share, which is estimated to be around $22 billion market by 2033, the State government on Thursday approved the Karnataka Space Technology policy 2025-2030 to make Karnataka a global space technology destination, aiming at 5% of the global market share.



The government has approved the Karnataka Space Technology Policy 2025-2030 to make the State a global space technology destination. FILE PHOTO

500 start-ups

The main objective of the policy is to support and help skill development of 50,000 young professionals, attract $3 billion through investment incentives and outreach and support 500 start-ups and MSMEs, with grants to enable design, manufacturing, assembly, integration, testing, launching, and operations of 50 satellites from Karnataka.

Among the focus areas of the policy will be the government support to companies engaged in the development of next generation space capabilities, including space stations and space tourism infrastructure, in-orbit manufacturing, and servicing capabilities. The government is also looking to support space asset development, launch infrastructure, manufacturing infrastructure and software. It will also support enterprises involved in earth observation, satellite communications, positioning, navigation, and timing services.

The policy aims to facilitate global and domestic space sector to invest to set up manufacturing and assembly, integration and testing units in Karnataka to cater to domestic and international market. While a special package will be designed based on the project proposal for incentives for investments above ₹100 crore, a list of exemption, subsidy, and incentives have been provided for investments that are less than ₹100 crores. Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil announced the contours of the policy in the Cabinet briefing here on Thursday. It also aims to facilitate highly skilled workforce across the space value chain.

He said that the policy looks at five broad strategies that include skill development, investments, infrastructure and facilities, innovation and facilitation, and adoption and awareness. A space technology cell, which will act as single touch point for industry, start-ups, and MSMEs will be set up under the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society.

Techie arrested in hit-and-run case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sadashivanagar police arrested a 23-year-old software engineer for knocking down a family of three in a suspected hit-and-run case on New BEL Road in Bengaluru.

The accused, identified as Sukrit Keshav Gowda, is a resident of Kodigehalli. He is an employee of a private company at Whitefield.

The incident occurred on October 26. Around 7 p.m., the accused was driving his car when he hit a scooter from behind near M.S. Ramaiah Hospital. The scooter was being driven by Vineth A., 33. Vineth was accompanied by his wife, Anikita Patel, 31, and their young son. Passers-by rushed the injured trio to M.S. Ramaiah Hospital. Initially, the case was registered at the Sadashivanagar Traffic Police Station, but after investigation confirmed it was a hit-and-run case, it was transferred to the Sadashivanagar Law and Order Police. The police arrested the accused near Balaji Layout on Thursday.

46 mechanical sweeping machines to be taken on rent

The machines will be deployed across the five corporations in the GBA limits. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday approved renting out 46 mechanical sweeping machines for a period of seven years at a cost of ₹613 crore. The machines will be deployed in the limits of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil told pressperson after the Cabinet meeting that these machines would be deployed across the five corporations in the GBA.

Recommendation

The self-propelled mechanical sweeper machines, along with dumper trucks and human resources, will be taken on rent. The decision is based on a recommendation by a technical committee.

Deployment

In Bengaluru, there is a 12,878.89 km of road network, of which 1,682.10 km are arterial and sub-arterial roads where these mechanical sweeping machines will be deployed.

Fostering inquiry in children in the age of Internet

GUEST COLUMN

H.S. Nagaraja
BENGALURU

Every child has tons of curiosity. Curiosity is the precursor to learning. While the nourishment for physical growth happens at home, the intellectual and emotional growth happens in school. In the early stage of learning, the child's curiosity is met in the school through interaction with peers and in the classroom.

The early method

One of the many forms of learning is rote learning, which is also one of the earliest methods. This is based on repetition. This has also been the preferred method of learning in most civilisations since ancient times. Since this method involves repetition of facts, it helps fast recall. This also works well to improve memory, attention span and mental endurance, particularly in younger learners.

In the Indian subcontinent, recitals of tables, hymns, and verses from traditional texts was a regular exercise to Indian children. Traditional knowledge was passed through generations by this method. This was further a need because of the absence of learning material. A recent study from the Universities of Harvard and Columbia by Dr. James Hertzel and others has shown that the intensive memorisation of Sanskrit texts enhances brain structure and cognitive function.

However, the rote memory model often leads to mental exhaustion and boredom to the learner, and mostly deals with memorisation of facts. Critical thinkers, innovators and inventors usually emerge from a system that encourages inquiry, reflection and problem solving. Over-reliance on rote memory often hinders the development of creative capabilities. Models of inquiry-driven learning have also been part of ancient texts.

In a changed world

With the advent of the Internet, memoisable facts are available at a single click and are no longer a very valuable skill. It is, therefore, important to realise that while keeping a certain degree of rote memory is necessary, it is very important to add a sizeable component of inquiry-based learning to process new information. Learning, unlearning, and relearning are a need. One of the methods of inquiry-based learning is experiential learning. This is highly personalised to meet the pace and style of learning of the individual child. This is also a child-centric model for learning. Instead of a teacher talking about the three laws Newton discovered, the child in this model discovers the same three laws by the scientific method of observation, hypothesising, exploration, data collection, organisation, and conclusions. This not only enables a scientific process of pursuing knowledge but gives the joy of discovering what the great scientists once did. Knowing the process of science is as important, or even more important, as knowing the facts of science.

Some experiments done in this direction have led to improved attendance in classrooms, joyful participation, and excitement and comfort in learning.

"Experience is the only source of knowledge, and everything else is mere information," said Albert Einstein. The best gift to our children is to help their curiosity grow, let them explore for themselves, and enjoy learning.

(The author is the founder and chief mentor, Prayoga Institute of Education Research.)

How underprivileged children found their classroom

Suresh Ambat's idea to provide free education to children from slum areas in the city was shaped by his own experiences as a school-going child in a village

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

What began with five children learning in a small garage in 2004 in Bengaluru has today grown into a network of 10 preschools inside slum areas. More than 1,300 children from families of daily-wage workers and domestic helpers now get an early start to education through the community-run centres, Building Blocks, founded by Suresh Ambat, who came to Bengaluru two decades ago. He has been helping slum children access education in Bengaluru and across various other parts too.

Children at one of the community-run preschools in Bengaluru's slum areas; the preschools are part of a network started in 2004 to give underprivileged children an early start to education. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Ambat's idea was born out of his memory of growing up in a small village near Alwaye in Kerala, walking barefoot to a government school, and realising only much later what those early lessons meant. Moreover, an accident he met with years ago became one of the turning points.

"I kept wondering why I didn't die, whether there was a purpose to it, something more to life than just going to work and making money." That question stayed with him and gradually shaped his purpose to do something for children who had little opportunity. When Mr. Ambat moved to Bengaluru in 2002, he was moved by scenes of urban poverty - rows of cramped tin-roof houses, open drains, the constant smell of smoke and sewage. He then began teaching a handful of them to read and count in a garage. Neighbours donated mats and notebooks, and parents, many of them domestic workers, began sending their children. By the end of that year, the five children became 20, and Mr. Ambat rented a room to keep the classes going.

"The first few years were run entirely on goodwill. Neighbours contributed notebooks, friends pooled in money to pay rent," Mr. Ambat recalls. As more families from the surrounding slums asked to enroll their children, he began to organise the classes into what would become the first of several preschools. Each centre now has around 70 to 80 children and a team of teachers, many of them women from the same communities.

The first obstacle, he said, was trust. "In the early days, many parents were wary of free education offered by a stranger. That changed slowly. When they saw children coming home clean, singing rhymes, and learning, the fear disappeared," he added.

Women identified from the community and were trained to do door-to-door outreach too.

One of the earliest and most consistent supporters came from far beyond Bengaluru. Megumi, a Japanese woman who first visited one of the schools nearly a decade ago, began sponsoring a handful of children. Over the years that number grew to more than 200.

Another turning point came when a member of Mr. Ambat's team happened to meet a Boeing representative. The casual chat led to an email, and eventually to a CSR grant, the first major corporate support the initiative received.

He submitted a proposal, initially asking for $20,000. The representative suggested doubling it.

"That one moment changed everything," he recalled. The support not only paid teachers' salaries and rent but also allowed for upgrades. By 2010, the work had gathered momentum. A friend from Australia helped fund a third school. Soon after, a visitor from the Netherlands, moved by what he saw, partnered with Mr. Ambat to start another. That collaboration also introduced daily breakfast and lunch for all students. "Many came to school hungry. Once they were fed, they could focus, and parents trusted us more."

The initiative is sustained entirely through individual donors and corporate CSR support. The children graduating from the preschools are linked with sponsors who help them continue their education up to grade 10 in English-medium schools.

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INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, JHARKHAND

Is there light at the end of the tunnel?

Marked: The proposed tunnel road overlaps significantly with the planned Namma Metro Phase 3A (Red Line), raising concerns about the viability of both projects. K. MURALI KUMAR

Tenders for building the north-south corridor of the twin tunnel project are being finalised, and civil work is likely to begin soon. **Rishita Khanna** looks at lapses in planning this ambitious project, and examines key questions on the cost of commute and the ability to ease congestion

Decades of flyovers, underpasses, and infrastructure quick fixes have done little to ease Bengaluru's traffic gridlock, mostly shifting long queues of vehicles from one junction to another. Yet the city, where people plan travel by time rather than distance, is being offered another silver bullet – a network of 40 km of twin tunnel roads crisscrossing the city connecting north to south and east to west – costing tens of thousands of crores, with a promise to save time and reduce the city's chronic traffic problems.

In Bengaluru, public transport remains overcrowded, walking and cycling are unsafe, and the broader question of how to move more people, not just more cars, remains unanswered.

However, instead of letting the city's Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) and the Revised Master Plan - 2041, which are in the works now, guide the project, the twin tunnel project was decided first, with the plan and foundational transport logic appearing to play catch-up to political deadlines.

The project aims to tackle the city's chronic traffic congestion through two main corridors: a north-south link between Hebbal and Silk Board (16.74 km) and an east-west corridor connecting K.R. Puram to Nayandahalli (22 km). It has progressed rapidly from its announcement in early 2024 to Cabinet approval, followed by the preparation of the detailed project report for the north-south corridor.

This rapid progress, experts point out, stands in contrast to other major public transport initiatives in the city, such as Namma Metro and the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project, both of which have faced long delays. It is a familiar pattern where speed is mistaken for progress, car ownership for prosperity, and planning treated as paperwork to be filled in later, they say.

While Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar champions the tunnel road as Bengaluru's ultimate solution to daily gridlock, insisting that 'time is everything' and no one should waste it, experts caution that urban mobility is a complex, multi-layered challenge, far more than just shaving minutes off commutes or building roads that allow faster commute.

Professor Ashish Verma from the Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), argues that the city's transport crisis is far more complex than the political rhetoric that reduces it to saving minutes and speeding cars. "The argument about cutting time and decongesting is precisely where all political and technical understanding goes wrong. Such claims that the tunnel will save people's time oversimplifies urban mobility, which is in reality a deeply interconnected system".

"A single lane of road can move only about 1,800 passengers per hour per direction. By contrast, the same tunnel, if used for a metro, could carry up to 69,000 passengers per hour per direction – nearly 40 times more people," Prof. Verma added.

Tunnel first, planning later

Moreover, the larger question is how the tunnel road fits into Bengaluru's master plan and long-term mobility vision. Large-scale infrastructure projects are supposed to emerge from rigorous data-based surveys, detailed transport assessments, and stakeholder consultations, reflecting how people actually move across the city, where they live, where they work, and which routes they use. Such bottom-up inputs then shape a mobility plan that balances modes of travel and sets long-term goals.

> You may have high purchasing power, own multiple cars, and live in an expensive apartment, but if you spend hours in traffic and breathe toxic air, what quality of life are you really enjoying? We've mistaken affluence for well-being
>
> **ASHISH VERMA**
> Professor, IST Lab, IISc

"In Bengaluru's case, the CMP clearly states that nearly 80% of daily trips should happen through public transport, walking, or cycling. Moreover, the goal of any urban mobility system should be to maximize the movement of people and goods, not vehicles. Yet, the tunnel road does the opposite, prioritising car throughout over people," Prof. Verma added.

In such cases, planning decisions ignore these foundational surveys and frameworks, stop reflecting citizens' mobility needs, and begin reflecting institutional convenience or political visibility instead.

Affordability, financial viability

Another critical aspect is the project's affordability and financial viability. The detailed project report estimates a toll of ₹19.42 per km for using the tunnel. This essentially means the toll alone for a commute from Hebbal to Silk Board will be ₹325, and for a round trip the figure will be ₹650.

Mobility experts have cautioned that this is a significant cost for everyday commuters, and the government must understand whether people can realistically bear the expense.

While the tunnel road is being pitched as a solution for car owners, it won't benefit everyone. How even all car owners can afford to shell out the toll is debatable. "If someone is taking a cab and refuses to pay the toll, the cab driver will be forced to use the surface roads, adding to congestion," said Rajkumar Dugar, convenor, Citizens for Citizens (C4C), adding that a similar behaviour is seen with people navigating the airport route where commuters actively avoid tolled routes, opting for alternative roads instead.

"Even the promise of reduced travel time is misleading. With tolls set high and likely to rise by the time the tunnel is ready, this project will only serve a selected group. Ordinary Bengaluru residents, who sit in traffic every day, will still be stuck on surface roads," he argued.

'User fee, not toll'

However, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up to manage the tunnel project, insisted that the 'toll' should not be considered a toll in the traditional sense.

"It is a user fee levied to allow vehicles to access and use the tunnel. The toll charge has been fixed in line with guidelines from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), and the tunnel has been scientifically designed to meet all technical, structural, and safety standards," B.S. Prahlad, Director (Technical), B-SMILE, clarified.

The project aims to tackle the city's chronic traffic congestion through two main corridors. FILE PHOTO

Conflict with mobility plan

The proposed tunnel road overlaps significantly with the planned Namma Metro Phase 3A (Red Line), raising concerns about the viability of both projects. The 37-km metro line, running from Sarjapur to Hebbal, shares nearly half its alignment with the tunnel between Silk Board and Hebbal, meaning the two projects are effectively competing for the same corridor and potentially undermining each other's effectiveness.

That's why projects like the tunnel, Prof. Verma said, are fundamentally counter-productive. "They diminish the use and viability of public transport, which cities should be strengthening. When you run a flyover parallel to a metro line, you are competing with your own system. You're taking away ridership from public transport and pushing more people toward private vehicles," he explained.

> The project has been conceived as a solution to congestion, but nobody has a clear answer about how exactly it will be achieved
>
> **DATTATRAYA T. DEVARE**
> Environmental activist

While there is no question that public transport needs to be strengthened, environmental activist Dattatraya T. Devare cautioned against framing the issue as a simple budget battle between car infrastructure and public transit.

"We cannot just take the money earmarked for this tunnel and put it into buses or the metro and expect results," he said. While investment in public transport is undoubtedly necessary, he argued, money alone will not change commuter behaviour. To achieve that, cities must actively focus on travel demand management – ensuring reliable service frequency, effective first and last-mile connectivity, safe pedestrian access, and policies that make private vehicle-use less convenient or more expensive. "If you don't create conditions that make public transport the default choice, people will continue to drive, even if you add hundreds of new buses. Without that behavioural shift, simply shifting funds from one mode to another achieves very little," he said.

Even when the project is defended by citing other examples, it is crucial to understand that treating cities like highways is fundamentally flawed. Urban areas, Prof. Verma said, are living, dynamic systems with multiple modes of movement with people walking, taking buses, and using cars – all interacting in complex ways.

"Viewing them merely as corridors for vehicles ignores these interactions and leads to solutions that may worsen congestion and pollution rather than solve it. Highway engineering principles, designed for uninterrupted vehicle flow over long distances, cannot be directly applied to the dense, mixed-use fabric of a city. Urban mobility is much more complex. Every major infrastructure decision must align with a comprehensive mobility framework that prioritises walking, cycling, and public transport, not just the convenience of car owners," he said.

Standard v/s quality of life

The larger problem, as Prof. Verma points out how India confuses the standard of living with the quality of life. "You may have high purchasing power, own multiple cars, and live in an expensive apartment, but if you spend hours in traffic and breathe toxic air, what quality of life are you really enjoying? We've mistaken affluence for well-being".

The Deputy Chief Minister has defended the proposed tunnel project in Bengaluru by invoking social expectations as much as transport logic. He argued that people prefer to travel in their own vehicles with their families and that people even hesitate to marry a boy who doesn't own a car, suggesting that infrastructure for private vehicles is not just about mobility, but even about status and marriage prospects. He has, many times, pointed to other cities like Mumbai and Delhi building tunnel works, implying that the IT capital too should keep up.

Yet, if the argument is 'they did it so why not us', then it invites an obvious follow-up – why aren't we also looking at cities that deliberately reduced car dependence rather than build more for cars? Places like Singapore, Switzerland and the Netherlands have shown that high income and good living can go hand in hand without turning every road into a car corridor. "Singapore, for instance, has a per capita income above $80,000 – nearly 25 times what India has – yet around 80 % of daily trips are via public transport, walking or cycling. In Switzerland and the Netherlands, safe cycling paths, reliable transit and policies that discourage unnecessary car use create a quality of life where people spend less time stuck in traffic and more time living," Prof. Verma pointed out.

"Therefore, if car ownership is being tied to marriage and status, why then are the examples of these high-functioning cities ignored? Are people in those countries not getting married, or not proud of their cars? Or, is the pride here tied less to vehicle count and more to a city that works for everyone?" he asked.

Will it solve congestion?

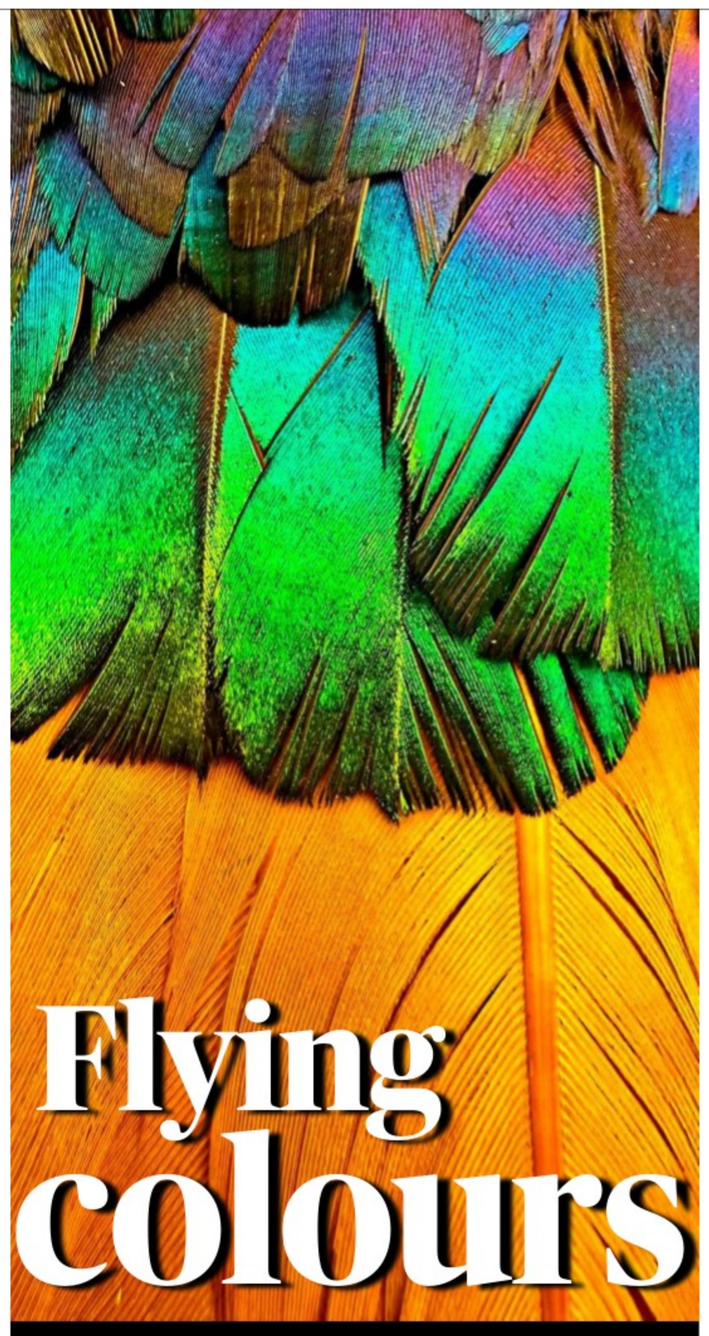
The fundamental question, which remains still unaddressed is – will the tunnel road even solve the problem it claims to address?

Mr. Devare said, "When the project has been conceived as a solution to congestion, nobody has a clear answer about how exactly it will achieve that. The proposed stretch runs between Hebbal and Silk Board, while Bengaluru's road network is dozens of times larger. How will this one stretch reduce congestion at Jayanagar, Outer Ring Road (ORR), or Whitefield? In the first place, it will not solve the problem it is supposed to solve".

Mr. Devare further added that environmental concerns compound the skepticism. The deep tunnelling could disturb the city's fragile groundwater system. "The amount of debris that will be generated is enormous. Where will it go, and how will it be transported? And even if you move faster inside the tunnel, how and when one enters – the entry and exit points – will still merge into the city's surface roads, where congestion and pollution will only worsen".

The project's legal and procedural grounding also remains shaky. "Such a massive undertaking cannot go ahead without statutory approval. It has not been cleared by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) or referred to the Metropolitan Planning Committee, both of which are mandatory. Even the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), in its own review, found major flaws in the proposal," he said.

Multiple Public Interest Litigations (PILs) have been filed before the High Court of Karnataka against the project and even the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is examining the project. Bengaluru South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, who has been the most vocal critic of the project and even submitted an alternative proposal for augmenting public transport, mainly through rail and even trams, argued for a PIL in the High Court.



Flying colours

Feather Library's founder, Esha Munshi, on how the initiative began, what the collection consists of and her epic find, a rare Sooty Shearwater

Preeti Zachariah
preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in

It started with the feathers of an Indian silverbill that Esha Munshi had saved from one of her cats during the pandemic, back in 2020. Esha, an architect by training and the founder of the Feather Library, which has just added an extremely rare Sooty Shearwater –the only Indian specimen of this migratory seabird –to its collection, says, "I rescued the bird, but, in fright, it lost a few feathers." She remembers looking down at the feathers she held in her hands, "smaller than my finger...so tiny and delicate," and realised that she wanted to know more about them. "I just got curious and wanted to see the flight feathers of all birds," says the self-confessed 'bird nerd', who has been obsessed with birds since she spotted a black-crowned night heron outside her office window in 2013.

She searched for more information about feathers but couldn't find it. So, she set the thought aside and returned to her regular life in Ahmedabad: practising architecture, pursuing a certification course at the Cornell Lab and working on a project with Cornell, annotating bird sounds to train the AI tool for the Merlin App. Then, on a trip to the Rann of Kutch the next year, the thought came back to her. She recalls telling the friends who had accompanied her that she wanted to create a collection of feathers. "I remember the date, September 9. In the morning, I discussed this, and that evening, I found a roadkill of a hoopoe. So, I took it as a sign," says Esha, who approached the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests soon after to get permission to collect bird feathers of birds that had died naturally.

In November 2021, less than two months later, the Feather Library, a unique initiative dedicated to documenting, identifying, and studying the flight feathers of Indian birds, was born. "I published the website at midnight on November 15, which is also my birthday," says Esha, now an Honorary Curator of Birds at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR), Bengaluru, where the physical collection of the Feather Library is currently housed."I created a website with five specimens, a prototype," she says, adding that her co-founder was Sherwin Everett, who used to work at an animal rescue centre called Jivdaya in Ahmedabad. "We would collect the birds that did not survive at Jivdaya and document their flight feathers."

Two months after the launch, she formally quit architecture and poured her heart and soul into this initiative, deepening her expertise by studying further at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "I already had friends there because of my annotation project. I told them that I had released something like this in India, and wanted to come and learn taxidermy and how to make museum specimens," says Esha. On her return from Cornell, she had a meeting with NCBS and decided to collaborate with the institute. "I shifted the whole collection here in August 2022," says Esha.

Today, the feather library has grown to encompass feathers of nearly 160 species of birds and around 400 specimens, housed in the temperature-controlled research collections facility at NCBS. Esha shows me around, opening drawer after drawer filled with wings, feathers and preserved whole birds, adding that she now has permission in Karnataka and Gujarat to collect deceased animals for stuffing, not just their feathers. I listen to her reel off names, "barn owl, spotted owlet, Indian pitta, golden oriole, coppersmith barbet, house crow, the Asian koel" until we finally reach the pièce de résistance: the Sooty Shearwater, which she received in August this year after it died of natural causes at a rescue centre in Porbandar, Gujarat. "It was a jackpot, actually," she believes. "There is only one other previous record of a Sooty Shearwater in India...a photographic record taken off the coast of Mangaluru in Karnataka."

A bird in hand Esha Munshi at the Feather Library (above) and the rare Sooty Shearwater (right). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The feather library, one of a handful of such enterprises in the world (the others being Germany's Featherbase and the United States' The Feather Atlas), serves more than just quenching Esha's thirst to learn about and collect bird feathers. In her opinion, many fundamental questions about feathers remain unanswered because there are very few researchers working on feathers worldwide. "That is what makes it very unique and niche," she says, pointing out that saving these feathers could help answer some of these questions. "The hope is that we can expand across India and have atleast one specimen of every Indian bird someday," says Esha, who also wants to someday transform the collection into an ornithology museum where specimen-based research can be conducted.

"Having a bird in your hand allows you to figure out so many minor details, which you'll never be able to do while birdwatching. And there is something new to learn from every bird."

STEPOUT

Sharp talk

The Hindu Lit for Life Dialogue, three compelling sessions featuring distinguished speakers from the worlds of literature, health, economics, and public thought, will be held. Some of the speakers at the session include Dr Ambrish Mithal, Shwetambari Shetty, Narendar Pani and Manu Joseph.
At the Museum of Art & Photography, Bengaluru, November 21, 4pm onwards. By invite only. RSVP 9886630330

Dreams and drama

Daag, a Hindi play presented by Dramarsis, will be staged. The play tells the story of Bindiya, a tailor, who has lofty dreams of making it big in life, but is confronted by bitter reality.
At Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar, on November 20, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets priced at ₹300 are available on BookMyShow.

Musical medley

The 102nd birth anniversary of Padma Bhushan KV Narayanaswamy will be celebrated with a series of Carnatic concerts. Some of the musicians who will be performing include the Bangalore Brothers, Suma Sudhindra, G Ravikiran and Hemmige Prashanth.
At Adisesha Vilasa, Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt, Malleswaram, on November 14, 15 and 16, between 9am and 8.45pm. Entry is free and all are welcome.

Life in a nutshell

Pocket, an exhibition of cartoonist Ravikanth Nandula's sketches, opens this weekend

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

News in a nutshell is not a social media, modern-day occurrence. Back in the day, newspapers would bring out pocket cartoons or single panel illustrations that captured the gist of current affairs in a pithy, witty way. Pocket, an exhibition by Ravikanth Nandula, showcases the best of the artist's work created over the past five years for The Hindu Business Line.

Still, when there is a barrage of events hurtling your way, how do you sift for news you can use? For Ravikanth, the choice has always been simple. "It depends on how relevant a subject is. Will the image spark something in the viewer's mind? Knowing what not to show helps one decide," says the Hyderabad-based cartoonist.

"Second, is it funny and does it evoke further thought? You have just one chance to present readers with a cryptic comment and you have to make it count."

Ravikanth says the litmus test he uses is to gauge if a person would respond to a situation in the way he has portrayed it. "That is the touchstone I use before I send a draft for approval," he says, adding that though it works for the most part, "There are times you end up with egg on your face."

Making it count A cartoon by Ravikanth Nandula. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is this sense of humour that is reflected in his work, whether he is presenting the market economy, climate crisis, cyber security or unemployment in a sketch.

Having illustrated for some of the leading publications in South India since the 1980s, Ravikanth says he was always doodling and sketching, and becoming a professional cartoonist was a childhood goal.

He began by providing drawings to accompany feature articles in periodicals and magazines, arming himself with an Engineering degree in the meantime. Ravikanth entered journalism at a time when reforms were not only rocking the industry, but the nation as well. He explains how his cartoons on topics such as AI are now a part of mainstream news. "About 20 years ago, it would take time for such a concept to become common knowledge. The internet has given cartooning a new dimension."

K Venugopal, chairman, Kasturi & Sons Ltd, will inaugurate Pocket on November 15 at 11am.

Pocket, a solo show of cartoons by Ravikanth N, will be on display at the Indian Cartoon Gallery, till November 30, 2025. Entry free, Sundays closed.

Swish dish Enjoy an European vibe at Marseli Café & Patisserie. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

From scratch to finish

Marseli Café & Patisserie in HSR Layout is a chef's tribute to his mentor

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

Chef Suresh Kumar M spent 17 years working in professional kitchens in the United Kingdom. The Bengaluru-based chef, who also owns the popular burger chain Leon's Burgers and Wings, was under the tutelage of Italian chef Pepe Marsel in London. Suresh had promised him that he would open a cafe in India, with all the techniques and skills he had learnt from Marsel. Unfortunately, Marsel passed away in 2020, but Suresh kept his promise. The newly opened Marseli Café & Patisserie in HSR layout, is named after him.

The cafe is located on 24th Main Road in sector 1 of HSR layout. The wide roads of the locality meant I had no trouble finding parking outside. The cafe is busy and I even spot pets in the outdoor area. The decor is bright and inviting with tones of greens and warm orange. There are cosy nooks, and bigger tables for large groups. The patisserie counter is inspired by Parisian cafes and is gleaming with desserts.

Bean talk

The coffee and beverage menu has all the favourites – cold coffees, matchas, and juices. There is also a section called 'Instagrammable' for pretty drinks such as blue pea tea lemonade and raspberry matcha. My friend orders an Americano, and I get a Vietnamese coconut cold brew. The coffees take a long time to arrive, we are almost eating by then. But the cold brew coffee is delicious; not too sweet and the coconut is not overpowering.

My friend and I peruse the food menu. The breakfast platters are not available we are told, but they range from a classic full English to a veggie one with avocado toast. Salads, appetisers, and main course options such as pasta and pizzas, are also part of the menu.

We are keen to try something from each section, so we order a truffle mushroom arancini and a Caesar salad. The Italian risotto balls are cheesy with a healthy stuffing of mushroom. It arrives on a bed of marinara sauce, and is served with a truffle parmesan cream. The truffle flavour is not pronounced, but the sauce is fresh and the arancini is crispy. The Caesar salad is just how I like it with romaine lettuce, shaved parmesan, crunchy croutons and grilled chicken. The in-house made dressing is creamy but light.

Between two slices

There are many options for sandwich lovers here. There are bagel sandwiches, open face tartines, sourdough toasties, paninis, French toasts, burgers and focaccias. We order a mushroom and cheese toastie. The grilled mushrooms and arugula stuffing is layered with a pesto sauce. The sourdough bread is freshly made, and you can taste the difference. We try the gnocchi and the pillow pasta is soft and tossed in a herby pesto sauce. The topping of grana padano cheese brings the dish together.

The gelatos look very tempting, so we pick up a dark chocolate scoop to go and we polish it off on the drive back home.

The cafe is vibrant and fresh. Suresh's passion for his craft shines through. I plan to return to try the patisserie.

Cost for two ₹1,800. From 8am to 11.30pm. At HSR Layout. For more details, call 7090779933

From Page One

POCSO case: HC upholds trial court's ruling

Also, the High Court permitted Mr. Yediyurappa and other accused persons to seek remedy available under the law, including the provision for filing application for discharge, before the trial court.

Justice M.I. Arun passed the order while disposing of a petition filed by Mr. Yediyurappa and other accused persons, questioning the correctness of the fresh cognisance of offences taken by the trial court on February 28, 2025.

'No error in cognisance'

"I do not see any error in the manner in which the trial court has taken cognisance of the offences alleged against the accused and the process that has been issued," said Justice Arun.

However, the High Court declined to consider fresh arguments contending that the "allegations made against Mr. Yediyurappa and other accused are not sustainable in the eye of law and that the chargesheet does not disclose any offences as alleged".

These arguments, Justice Arun said, "were already negatived by the High Court' in its February 7, 2025, order holding that the allegations against the accused if held to be true, do constitute an offence and whether the said allegations are true or false can be determined only after a full-blown trial."

The High Court also noted that its February 7 order had attained finality as the accused had not challenged that order before the Supreme Court.

Earlier orders

The trial court had passed a fresh order taking cognisance as per direction of the High Court, which on February 7, 2025, had partly allowed Mr. Yediyurappa's earlier petition challenging the trial court's July 4, 2024, order of taking cognisance.

The High Court in its February 7 order had termed the trial court's July 4, 2024 order as "bald, laconic and cryptic and contrary to the necessity under Section 190 (1)(b) or Section 204 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr. PC) as elucidated by the Supreme Court in its judgments", while remitting the matter back to the trial court for passing order on taking cognisance as per the law.

Miscreants set fire to cane-laden tractors

Incident occurred when sugarcane growers were protesting outside the gates of a factory at Sameerwadi in Bagalkot district

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Miscreants set fire to sugarcane-laden tractors and trolleys parked on the campus of the Godavari Bio Refineries Sugar Factory at Sameerwadi in Bagalkot district on Thursday. The police estimate that at least 15 of the 100 tractors and bikes were completely or partially burnt in the incident.

Farmers watch in despair as miscreants set fire to sugarcane-laden tractor trolleys at Sameerwadi in Bagalkot district on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The incident occurred when a group of around 300 sugarcane growers were on protest outside the factory gates. They wanted to lay siege to the factory and demand a base price of ₹3,500 per tonne. Members of various farmers' associations have been on strike for nearly two weeks now, demanding ₹3,500 per tonne. They have rejected the price of ₹3,300 announced by the government. Sameerwadi is around 20 km from Mudhol.

Subhash Sirbur, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha leader, told reporters at Sameerwadi that a gang of miscreants came from inside the factory and set fire to the vehicles. He denied that farmers were involved in the offence.

"All the protesting farmers were outside the factory gates. When we marched towards the factory, the police stopped us. How could we set fire to vehicles in front of the factory? It was a group of miscreants who set the vehicles on fire, as they wanted to bring a bad name to us," he claimed.

He alleged that the factory management wanted to falsely implicate the farmers. An email sent to the factory management seeking a reaction to the allegation is yet to receive a response.

Shivanand Patil, Sugar Minister, said, "A detailed inquiry will reveal who was responsible. The Bagalkot Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police have been holding a series of meetings with farmers for nearly 10 days now. But they remained adamant at ₹3,500 per tonne in all factories irrespective of sugar recovery percentages and payment in one instalment. We will try to resolve the matter by talking to protesters again," he said.

He said that as many as 13 factories in Bagalkot and surrounding areas had given him documents to prove that they were paying between ₹3,400 and ₹3,600 per tonne, above the price of ₹3,300 announced by the Chief Minister after a recent meeting.

Mr. Patil reiterated that the Union government fixed the fair and remunerative price and not the State government.

District in-charge Minister R.B. Thimmapur said he had called a meeting of farmers and factory owners on Thursday, but the violence occurred before they could conclude the meeting.

Voter fraud case: SIT makes first arrest

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the voter fraud in Aland Assembly constituency made the first arrest in the case on Wednesday.

B.R. Patil, MLA, who had raised allegations of voter fraud. FILE PHOTO

A man running two portals that provided phone numbers and OTPs to the Kalaburagi-based private firm to open untraceable accounts on Election Commission (EC) portals through which forged Form 7s to delete genuine voters of Aland were made in 2023, has been arrested.

Bapi Adya was picked up from a village in Nadia district on the Indo-Bangladeshi border in West Bengal on Wednesday night. He was produced before the First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Court in Bengaluru on Thursday and remanded in 12 days police custody.

Bapi Adya allegedly runs two portals that provide phone numbers and OTPs sent to these numbers to do transactions online, for ₹10 per such credential.

These portals, sources said, seem to have a tie-up with a similar portal in the United States of America and their servers are also suspected to be based abroad. The police recovered multiple digital devices from the arrested person.

OTP mystery

In the Aland case, 5,994 of the 6,018 Form 7 applications (to delete voter names from the list) were found to be forged in February, 2023, during an onground verification following a complaint by Congress candidate B.R. Patil.

These applications were made in the names of voters of Aland to delete other names from the list, with neither of them being aware. *The Hindu* reported on the case on September 7, 2025. These forged Form 7s were made through 72 accounts created on EC platforms – Voter Helpline App (VHA), National Voters' Services Portal (NVSP), and Garuda app, details of which were shared with the investigators by the EC. However, further requests of specific technical data haven't received a response till date.

These 72 accounts were created using 72 mobile numbers, spread across 18 States. While records show these numbers were sent OTPs from the EC portal while creating the login ID and passwords, none of the 72 who used these mobile numbers was aware of this. How the private firm that submitted the forged Form 7s zeroed in on these 72 phone numbers and how they accessed OTPs without the owners knowing it is still a mystery.

The SIT has till date questioned six persons associated with the Kalaburagi-based private firm, which got a contract to make forged Form 7s. The SIT also raided former BJP MLA Subhash Guttedar and his sons in connection with the case. They have secured anticipatory bail.

One of the key persons running the firm, who was in Dubai and returned recently, was questioned by the SIT. He helped solve the OTP mystery.

Portals that sell OTPs

The co-owner of the firm reportedly pointed to investigators two portals that provided them with the 72 mobile numbers and OTPs to open accounts on the EC portals.

After registering on these portals for a charge, the client will have to select a service like WhatsApp or Telegram and "order" for a credential.

The portal generates a mobile number, which needs to be copied and pasted in the service selected, to get an OTP sent to that particular number. Bapi Adya was identified and tracked down through the money trail the Kalaburagi-based firm paid.

Yet to be cracked

While this was the front end of how these portals worked, what technology they used is yet to be cracked. Web portals that sell credentials and OTPs without the owners of these SIM cards being involved, have raised red flags for its potential in cybercrimes. These portals will now likely be probed for transactions beyond the Aland case.

However, the portals work only in case of single authentication and not for transactions that have double authentication.

High Court disposes of plea on RSS route march in Chittapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Chittapur tahsildar permitted the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to hold its route march in Chittapur town on November 16 by imposing certain conductions, the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday disposed of a petition, which had questioned the tahsildar's decision to reject permission for the march originally scheduled for October 18.

Justice M.G.S. Kamal disposed of the petition filed by Ashok Patil, convener of the RSS route march, Chittapur, by recording the statement that permission had been granted.

Certain conditions

Earlier, State Advocate-General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty told the court that permission had been granted with certain conditions.

While appreciating the permission granted by the Kalaburagi district administration, senior advocate Aruna Shyam said that it was granted for the participation of only 300 persons while requesting that it may be increased to 600 apart from increasing the participation of persons in the band from 25 to 50.

Mr. Shyam said that the RSS is conducting the route march to celebrate its centenary year.

However, the A-G said that permission for 300 had been granted taking note of the participation of 100 to 150 persons in the march conducted in nearby areas.

However, the A-G agreed to allow 50 persons in the band instead of 25.

Recording these statements, the court disposed of the petition.

Manipal Group seeks to take part in insolvency process of Think & Learn

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dr. Ranjan Pai-led Manipal Education and Medical Group India (MEMG India) has formally submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of Think & Learn Pvt. Ltd. (TLPL), the parent company of Byju's.

According to documents filed with the Resolution Professional (RP), MEMG India has sought to be included in the list of Prospective Resolution Applicants (PRAs) and expressed its intent to examine the company's financial and operational details for the purpose of evaluating a potential resolution plan.

According to data shared by MEMG India, this is the second submission of EOI by MEMG after the time for such submission was extended by the RP to November, 13, 2025.

Karnataka to crack down on fake doctors and unregistered medical establishments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health officials have been directed o initiate strict action under various provisions of the law

The Karnataka government has directed health officials to initiate strict action against fake doctors and private medical establishments employing unqualified practitioners, under various provisions of law.

In a circular dated November 11, the government highlighted sections of the Karnataka Ayurvedic, Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani and Yoga Practitioners' Registration and Medical Practitioners' Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1962 (Karnataka Act 9 of 1962) and the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act, 2007, among others.

Under the 1962 Act, only persons registered under the Karnataka Medical Registration Act, 1961, the Karnataka Homoeopathic Practitioners Act, 1961, or the Indian Medical Register maintained under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1955, are permitted to practise medicine, surgery or midwifery. Any unregistered person found practising in violation of these provisions faces stringent penalties – including fines up to ₹25,000 for the first offence, ₹2.5 lakh and one-year imprisonment for the second, and ₹5 lakh and imprisonment up to three years for subsequent offences.

A special task force constituted in May 2017 under the Act has been mandated to inspect and prosecute unregistered practitioners.

Against establishments

Medical establishments employing unqualified or fake doctors are also liable for prosecution under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007. Running an establishment without valid registration is punishable with imprisonment up to three years and a fine up to ₹1 lakh. Additionally, such establishments can be penalised up to ₹50,000 by the Registration and Grievance Redressal Authority and are liable for immediate closure.

Further, employing unqualified doctors or paramedical staff can attract imprisonment up to three years and a fine up to ₹1 lakh. On conviction, the establishment may be ordered to close immediately.

Environmental law

Unregistered establishments that fail to comply with the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016, are also liable for prosecution. They will be punished under Section 15 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Such offences are punishable with imprisonment up to five years and a fine up to ₹1 lakh, with additional daily fines for continued violations. In cases of non-compliance beyond one year, imprisonment may extend to seven years.

BANGALORE EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division,
opposite to Phoenix mall, ITPL main road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru - 560 048

No.BECC/EE/DNK/TN/02/2025-26 Dated: 13-11-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK KPPP Only)

The Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The Class-1 contractor shall be registered in CPWD/KPWD/Railways /MES/any State or Central Govt. organization. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Amount put to tender in lakhs/EMD amount in Rs.
1	Comprehensive Development of Arterial and Sub arterial Roads and Drains and other allied works in Doddanekundi Main road from ORR to HAL Old airport road (ISRO Road), AECS Layout 60 ft road from CMRIT collage to Kundalahalli Junction and Chinnappanahalli main road via from Rainbow hospital to Jeevika hospital road and Hoodi main road from Y junction to HOODI CIRCLE. in Mahadevapura Constituency under GOK Grants Amount put to tender : **Rs.1440.00 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.14,40,000/-.**
2	Comprehensive Development of Arterial and Sub arterial Roads and Drains and other allied works in Vishweswaraiah Main Road, 2nd Main (Doddanekunde Industrial Estate) from Graphite India Main Road to Vishweswaraiah Main Road, 2nd Main (Rado Industrial Works) and in EPIP Main Road via Vydehi Hospital from Graphite India Road to ITPL Main Road Big Bazar Junction) and in Garudacharpalya Link Road from Graphite India Main Road to Garudacharpalya in Mahadevapura Constituency under GOK GrantsAmount put to tender : **Rs.1160.00 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.11,60,000/-**

Calendar of events:
1. Last date of submission queries : **20-11-2025 within 2.00 P.M**
2. Date & time for Pre Bid Meeting : **20-11-2025 at 3.00 P.M**
3. Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **28-11-2025 Upto 4:00 P.M.**
4. Date & Time for Opening Technical bid : **29-11-2025 at 4.30 P.M**
5. Date & Time for Opening Financial bid : **01-12-2025 at 4.00 P.M**
6. Validity of Tenders : **180 Days**

Bid document may be referred for other terms and conditions and any Corrigendum/Addendum will be published and notified only through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact KPPP/portal

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR DISTRICT BIDAR

No: DPI/2025-26/SE0337/CALL-2 Date: 10/11/2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER

PROVIDING FOOD FOR 600 STUDENTS OF KGBV TYPE-1 SCHOOLS OF BIDAR DISTRICT

TENDER TIME TABLE:- 1) Tender Amount **Rs:122.40 lakhs,** 2) Date of pre bid meeting **Date:13/11/2025 Time:12:00 PM,** 3) Last Date & Time for submitting Tender Document on or before. **Date:17/11/2025 Time: 5.00 PM,** 4) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid **Date:18/11/2025 Time:5.15 PM,** 5) Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid **Date:19/11/2025 Time:03.00 PM,** 6) E.M.D **Rs:1,83,600 /-,** 7) Contact No: 9448999338, 8) Website address www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DDPI & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR
Bidar Dist.Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/235/KSMC&A/2025-26

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, KALABURAGI
Phone: 08472-278630 Email: jdakalaburagi@gmail.com

File No: AD/Agri/Tender/Cold Storage/KKRDB/1/2025-26 Date: 12-11-2025

E–PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) Mega Macro Project for the year 2025–26, tenders are invited for the work of Construction of **TENDERS FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF MILLETS / MULTI GRAIN PROCESSING CENTRE AND OTHER PARAPHERNALI AT GOBBUR (B) IN AFZALPUR TALUKA AND AT CHITTAPUR TALUKA OF KALABURAGI DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA ON TURNKEY BASIS.** Under KKRDB (Mega Macro) 2022-23. Eligible contractors registered with the Department of Agriculture are requested to submit their bids through e–procurement on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Sl.No.Particulars, Details 1) Tender No. **AD/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT149, AD/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT150,** 2) Estimated Cost : **Rs.1,50,000,00.00** (Chittapur Taluk), : **Rs.1,50,000,00.00** (Afazalpur Taluk), 3) Tender Download Start Date: **12-11-2025, 06:00 PM,** 4) Last Date for Submission of Bids, **20-11-2025, 05:00 PM,** 5) Opening of Technical Bids, **21-11-2025, 05:30 PM**, Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture Kalaburagi, 6) EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) **Rs.2,25,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs, Twenty five thousand only)** for Erach tender. 7) Address for Correspondence Joint Director of Agriculture, Kalaburagi. Phone: 08472-278630, 8) Website for e–Tender Submission **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

For any clarification or technical assistance regarding tender submission, contact the Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Kalaburagi.

Sd/- Joint Director of Agriculture, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/709/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

'A.P. will be at the forefront of India's vision 2047'

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said "India will become a top country in the world by 2047, and A.P. will be at the forefront of it," at the India-Europe Business Partnership Roundtable, in Visakhapatnam on Thursday ahead of the CII Partnership Summit.

"If you come forward with investments, we will appoint an escort officer and help you set up industries," Mr. Naidu assured the European delegates.

"Andhra Pradesh will be the gateway to the entire global market. There is scope for investment in industrial products, education and other sectors. A.P. is unmatched in ease, speed, and cost of doing business. I urge industrialists in the European countries to take advantage of these," Mr. Naidu said.

SC finds T.N. challenge to Mekedatu reservoir project 'premature'

The top court has said that in case of approval of DPR, affected parties would be free to take measures as per law

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday (November 13, 2025) termed Tamil Nadu's application challenging the proposed construction of a reservoir by Karnataka at Mekedatu across the interstate river Cauvery as "premature" and refused to entertain it.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai said, Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the reservoir, submitted by Karnataka, was only being considered by the experts in the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC).

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has already made it clear that any acceptance of the DPR would be given only after approvals from CWMA and CWRC.

A view of the river Cauvery. FILE PHOTO

In case of approval of DPR, affected parties, including Tamil Nadu, would be free to take measures in accordance with the law.

The apex court said, Karnataka, anyway, would be bound to release Cauvery water allotted to lower riparian Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry, which is downstream. The hearing before the three-judge Bench was based on an application moved by Tamil Nadu in the apex court seeking a direction to restrain the CWMA from deliberating the proposed reservoir project.

The application has stated that the planning of the Mekedatu project with a capacity of 67.16 TMC ft. and generation of 400 MW project worth Rs. 9000 crore was in "gross violation" of the decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal of February 5, 2007, which was affirmed by the Supreme Court itself on February 16, 2018.

"The entire objective of the Tribunal's final decision is to ensure that the pattern of the release of water to the downstream State to meet irrigation interests is not jeopardised," Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, argued.

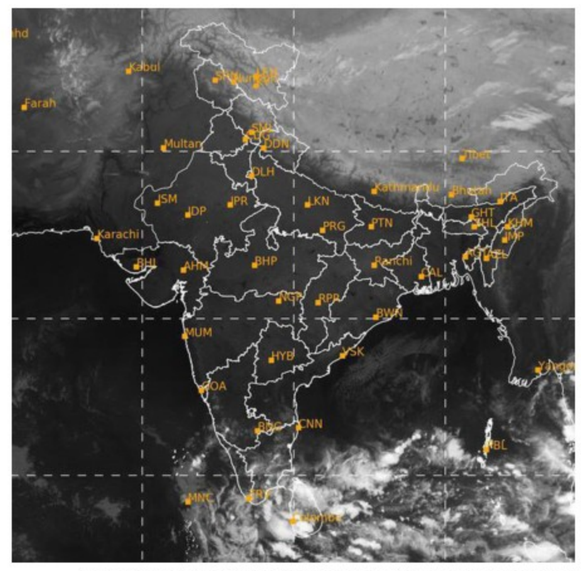
Senior advocate Shyam Divan, for Karnataka, would in no way impact the water allotted to Tamil Nadu. He said Tamil Nadu's apprehensions were "completely misconceived".

But Tamil Nadu explained that the proposed reservoir would result in the impounding of the flows generated in the Cauvery river from the uncontrolled catchment of the Kabini sub-basin downstream of the Kabini reservoir, the catchment of Cauvery river downstream of KRS dam, uncontrolled flows from Shimsha, Arkavathy and Suvarnavathy sub-basins and various other small streams, which are the sources to ensure 177.25TMC at Billigundlu.

It said CWMA cannot deliberate or pass any directions on the project when the Supreme Court was seized of the state's applications to direct the Central Water Commission to reject and return the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project and restrain the Environment Ministry from entertaining any application for clearance relating to the Mekedatu project.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.0	18.8	Kozhikode	—	34.2	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.0	16.0	Kurnool	—	33.4	20.2
Aizawl	—	29.3	14.0	Lucknow	—	29.3	11.4
Allahabad	—	29.4	11.0	Madurai	—	34.0	24.5
Bengaluru	—	28.8	20.6	Mangaluru	—	32.6	23.8
Bhopal	—	27.8	8.2	Mumbai	—	33.3	20.3
Bhubaneswar	—	29.8	14.1	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.0
Chandigarh	—	27.0	8.7	New Delhi	—	26.3	10.6
Chennai	0.2	30.5	25.6	Patna	—	28.3	16.8
Coimbatore	—	33.0	23.2	Port Blair	2	31.2	25.2
Dehradun	—	27.1	10.0	Puducherry	—	30.2	24.2
Gangtok	—	20.0	11.4	Pune	—	32.3	17.0
Goa	—	33.5	22.0	Raipur	—	29.0	13.7
Guwahati	—	28.8	18.7	Ranchi	—	25.2	10.4
Hubballi	—	29.0	17.0	Shillong	—	20.9	10.0
Hyderabad	—	30.2	14.4	Shimla	—	19.8	10.0
Imphal	—	27.3	17.8	Srinagar	—	17.4	-2.1
Jaipur	—	29.4	14.4	Thiruvananthapuram	6	30.9	22.9
Kochi	—	30.6	25.2	Tiruchi	—	33.1	24.0
Kohima	—	17.3	10.3	Vijayawada	—	29.6	23.0
Kolkata	—	29.0	17.4	Visakhapatnam	—	29.8	20.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.45	..92	68	... 182	...247	
Bengaluru	...3	..25	62	 60	...205	
Chennai	.15	..32	24	... 227	...130	
Delhi	.62	169	80	... 434	...426	
Hyderabad	...2	..23	58	... 155	...117	
Kolkata	...2	..44	50	... 306	...236	
Lucknow	...6	..56	34	... 279	...158	
Mumbai	...6	..48	36	... 280	...251	
Pune	...6	..60	91	... 176	...185	
Visakhapatnam	.42	..34	18	... 163	...133	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bahadurgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 466 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka terms rejection of T.N.'s plea as 'justice to State'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday termed the Supreme Court rejecting Tamil Nadu's application challenging the proposed construction of a reservoir by Karnataka at Mekedatu across the Cauvery as "justice to the State."

> This project is being done in our land and with our resources. This project will help us supply water to Tamil Nadu as per the tribunal's order even during poor rain years
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> **Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister**

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, said: "This is not about a setback or a victory. It has given justice to Mekedatu. Mekedatu is a project for our water, and it doesn't affect Tamil Nadu in any way. In fact, it benefits Tamil Nadu. The Supreme Court has responded to the people of Karnataka". Tamil Nadu will get its share of water as per the court's judgments, and hence the State will continue with the project, he said.

"This project is being done in our land and with our resources. This project will help us supply water to Tamil Nadu as per the tribunal's order even during poor rain years. This is a victory for the people of Bengaluru. This water will provide drinking water to people from all States living in Bengaluru. I appeal to Tamil Nadu to support the project now at least. We all need to work on this project together," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Asked if the Central Water Commission (CWC) would support the project, he said: "The court will give directions to the CWC. The CWC doesn't have any other choice but to support the Mekedatu project."

A delegation of Karnataka MPs will be taken to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to urge the Centre to provide all clearances for the project.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

T.Notice No.- 230-Elect/TRD/PRYJ/E-Tender Notice/2025/588 Date- 11.11.2025

Tender Notice

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer/TRD-SPL/N.C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-

T.No.: 230-TRD-WC-979-2025

Advertised Value	Bid Security	Completion Period	Bidding System
₹ 2,37,51,032.71	₹ 2,68,800.00	12 Months	Single Packet

Description of work: 25 KV OHE modification work due to extension & raising of platform up to high level at Bhogaon (BGQ), Balarai (BBL), Bhadan (BDN), Kanchausi (KNS), Pata (PTX), Manzurgarhi (MZGI), Sasni (SNS), Mainipuri (MNQ) & Jalesar Road (JLS) stations of Prayagraj Division.

Tender Closing date & Time: 03.12.2025 & **14.00** Hrs., **Tender opening date & time: 03.12.2025** & **15.00** Hrs.

Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on Website **www.ireps.gov.in** 21 days prior to the date of opening of the tender. **2.** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. **3.** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website IREPS may be approached.

2149/25 FA

North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II
Triveni complex at Hyderabad

O.A.No.864 of 2025

Between:
Bank of Baroda, Subhash road Branch
Ananthapur, Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh
Rep by its Authorized Officer ...APPLICANT
And
M/s. Vijaya Surya Enterprises & Others ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,

1. M/s Vijaya Surya Enterprises, Rep by its Partners Mr. S. Sai Jayanth, D.No.23-443-10, Prashanthi Nagar, Anantapur - 515 004
2. Mr. S Sai Jayanth, S/o. Mr. S. Surya Prakash Reddy, aged 27 years, Occ: Business, R/o Mallasandra Village, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikaballapur, Karnataka - 561207
3. Mrs. P Anuradha, W/o Mr. P Lakshmipathi Reddy, aged 40 years, R/o 10-Naarasimhapalli Village, Gorantla Mandal, Anantapur - 515 231
... DEFENDANTS

Please take the summons in the above **O.A.No.864/2025** filed by the applicant for recovery of money of **Rs.36,67,630.01/-** against you. The Hon'ble Tribunal ordered summons to you by way of paper publication in Telugu/ English/Kannada daily newspaper and posted the matter to **15/12/2025.**

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under;

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest in created and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are directed to appear before Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, 1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad - 500001 in person or through an Advocate and file written statement on **15/12/2025 at 10.30 a.m.** and show cause as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day 10th November, 2025.
(By order of the DRT II, Hyderabad)
Signature of the Officer Authorized to issue Summons

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank. Across India.

Asset Recovery Management Branch,
1st Floor, FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/22955929(AGM)
E-Mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website: https://karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

MEGA E-AUCTION
NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 10.12.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive/Actual Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is"and "As is what is" basis on 10.12.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **09.12.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/ Co-Obligants and Loan Account No.	Balance O/S Rs. Future Interest From + Costs	Possession Date Possession Type	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Auction Time	Incremental Value of the Bid	Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code
1	**I.(1) M/s Greenthrust Oil Industries Pvt Ltd, Represented by its Directors: i) Mrs Ashwini Rakshak Prabhu ii) Mr.Prakash Prabhu iii) Mrs. Jyothi Gopal Prabhu, Addressed at:** No.776, Tirumala Pride Apartment, Flat No. F2, 11th Main Road, Vinayaka Layout, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072, **(2) Mrs. Ashwini Rakshak Prabhu,** W/o Mr.Rakshak Prabhu, **Residing at:** Flat No. F2, Tirumala Pride Apartment, 11th Main Road, Vinayaka Layout, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072, **(3) Mr. Prakash Prabhu,** S/o Mr.Yashwanth Prabhu, # 184, Asha deep, 2nd Main, 4th Cross, Teachers Colony, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560072, **(4) Mrs.Jyothi Gopal Prabhu** W/o Mr.Gopal Prabhu, **Residing at:** No.208, 2nd Main Road, Teachers Layout, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560072, **(5) Mr.Anandaraya Yashvantha Prabhu** S/o Mr. Yashvantha Prabhu, **Residing at:** Flat No. F2, Tirumala Pride Apartment, 11th Main Road, Vinayaka Layout, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072. **Loan A/c Nos.:** **(1) PSTL A/c No.1247001800032701** **(2) PSTL A/c No.1247001800038001** **(3) PSTL A/c No.1247001800040801**	**Total Rs. 7,41,37,190.01 [(1) Rs. 6,21,42,058.20 11.09.2025 + (2) Rs. 29,73,247.68 11.09.2025 + (3) Rs. 60,79,426.64 11.09.2025]**	**13.06.2024 Constructive**	**Item No.1:** All that part and parcel of **Leasehold Industrial property bearing Plot No.75, being carved out of Sy.No.92 and 143** of Yalladadlu Village and Sy.No.65 & 66 of Nagenahalli Village, measuring 4004 sq mts (East to West: 88 meters and North to South: 45.50 meters) together with sheet roofed industrial shed building constructed thereon situated at 2nd Phase, Vasanthapura Industrial Area, Kora Hobli, Tumakuru Taluk and District-574128 belonging to **M/s Greenthrust Oil Industries Pvt.Limited. Boundaries of property as per Document: East by:** Plot No.76, **West by:** Private Land & KIADB Land, **North by:** Plot No.77, **South by:** 18 mtrs wide Road No.5. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude:13.500417, 77.035715**	**Rs. 2,76,50,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Six Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 27,65,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Only)**	**10.00 AM to 10.15 AM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru – Amarjyothi Nagar A/c No: 1243500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000124**
	II. (1) Mr. Prakash Prabhu S/o Yashwanth Prabhu **(2) Mr.Prasanna Prabhu** S/o Praksah Prabhu **(3) Mrs. Sujatha Prabhu** W/o Prakash Prabhu **(4) Mr. Prajwal Prabhu** S/o Prakash Prabhu **All residing at :** No.184, Ashadeep, 2nd Main , 4th Cross, Teachers Colony, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072. **Loan A/c Nos.:** **(1) TL A/c No 1247001600033101** **(2) TL A/c No 1247001600033201**	**[(1) Rs. 9,31,280.08 25.10.2025 + (2) Rs. 20,11,177.41 25.10.2025]**	**21.08.2025 Constructive**	**Item No.2:** All that part and parcel of **Residential property bearing Now Municipal Site No.184, PID No.39-187-184,** formed in **Sy. No.1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 2, 10, 50/1, 53, 54/1, 54/4A, 54/4B, 55/5** formed by the Kendra Upadhyayara Sangha (Regd. Bangalore South), layout plan approved by BDA, measuring East to West: 9.14 meters and North to South: (13.40 + 13.10)2 meters, in all **totally measuring 121.20 sq.meters i.e.1305 sq.ft.,** together with building constructed (GF, FF, SF with terrace floor measuring 2520 sq.ft) thereon situated at Nagarabhavi 1st Stage, presently BBMP Ward No.39, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore-560072 belonging to Mr.Prakash Prabhu. **Boundaries of property as per Document: East by:** Site No.185, **West by:** Site No.183, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.175. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude:12.957405, 77.517919**	**Rs. 2,75,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Five Lakh Only)**	**Rs. 27,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)**	**10.15 AM to 10.30 AM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru – Amarjyothi Nagar A/c No: 1243500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000124**
2	**(1) Mr. Venkatesh V,** S/o Mr. Vardaraj, **(2) Mrs. Kavitha Venkatesh N,** W/o Mr. Venkatesh V, **Both are R/at :** No.2518, 14th Main, 64th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560078, **Also at:-** Flat No. 009, GF, "SPRING SERENITY", Hennur Main Road, Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru-560043. **Loan A/c Nos.:** **(1) TL No. 9457001600006001** **(2) TL No. 9457001600006801**	**Total Rs.98,49,494.00 [(1) Rs. 86,04,518.00 12.06.2023 + (2) Rs. 12,44,976.00 09.06.2023]**	**12.02.2025 Physical**	All that piece and parcel of **Residential Flat bearing Flat No.009, 2 BHK,** in the **Ground Floor** of Apartment called as **"SPRING SERENITY",** measuring Super Built up area of **1300 Sq.ft.** along with one car parking in stilt floor with an undivided share of land measuring **493 Sq.ft.** out of land measuring **24079 Sq.ft.,** constructed on the property bearing **Municipal No.616/31/7,** situated at Hennur Village, Hennur Main Road, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560043. **belonging to Mr. Venkatesh.V and Mrs. Kavitha Venkatesh.V. Boundaries of Property : East by :** Remaining part of Survey No.31/7, **West by:** Hennur Main Road and Private Property, **North by:** Remaining part of Survey No.31/7, **South by:** Private Property. **Boundaries of Flat Property : East by :** Corridor & Open Area, **West by:** Open to Sky, **North by :** Open to Sky, **South by :** Flat No.008.	**Rs. 77,70,000/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakh Seventy Thousand Only).**	**Rs. 7,77,700/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Only)**	**10.30 AM to 10.45 AM**	**Rs. 50,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru - Kaggadasapura A/c No: 9453500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000945**

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).
(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule (8)Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors).
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. https://karnatakabank.com under the head "Regulatory and others".
The E-auction will be conducted through portal www.auctionbazaar.com on **10.12.2025** at above mentioned time with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **www.auctionbazaar.com** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **09.12.2025**) from **M/s Auction Bazaar, 7-1-28/1/A/1 Park Avenue 1, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Secunderbad, Telangana, India, 500016, Contact Mobile No. 8885035382, E-mail : disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

Date : 12.11.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer,
Karnataka Bank Ltd.

Urgent update

India needs to revise its Consumer Price Index urgently

The retail inflation data for October once again underscore the fact that the update of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) cannot happen fast enough. The data show that the rate of overall inflation fell to just 0.25%, the lowest it has been since at least January 2012. On the face of it, this would be cause for celebration, but a deeper look reveals this drastic fall to be a statistical anomaly rather than an actual fall in price levels. The food and beverages category saw prices falling 3.7% in October, the largest in the history of the CPI's current series. However, the main reason for this contraction was not so much that food prices have fallen, but because food inflation in October last year was a blistering 9.7%. This high base ensured that food inflation in October 2025 was negative, even though vegetable prices in markets have been on the rise recently. With the food and beverages category enjoying a weightage of nearly 46% in the overall CPI basket, this statistical anomaly in food inflation was responsible for pulling the entire index down. Indeed, inflation in nearly every other major subgroup – fuel and light, housing, tobacco, and the miscellaneous category – was higher this October than last. The impact of the GST rate cuts has, so far, been seen only in the clothing and footwear category – the only one apart from food to see inflation lower than last year. All of this shows just how skewed the inflation measure is. Not only is it outdated, with the base year set as 2012, but the weightages are no longer accurate and more often obscure rather than clarify. The disconnect between the CPI and reality can perhaps best be shown by the fact that people the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had surveyed in September had said that their perceived inflation rate was 7.4% – a far cry from what the CPI reported.

The urgency behind the update is not just because of the vast gap between measured and perceived inflation. It is also because the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee uses the CPI as its benchmark when deciding what to do with interest rates. Its next meeting is in December and it will have to decide whether to keep rates unchanged or to cut them. It will have to contend with growth data clouded by the temporary impact of the GST rate cut-related demand boost. Having to also parse through inflation data beset by statistical anomalies will only make accurate policymaking that much harder. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has said that the new series of the CPI will be ready by the first quarter of the next financial year. The sooner it happens, the better.

Amoral embrace

The U.S. appears to have given a free pass to Sharaa in Syria

For Ahmed al-Sharaa, the founder of al-Qaeda's Syria branch, and now the President of Syria, his recent visit to the White House has marked a remarkable turnaround in his career. From commanding an outfit responsible for suicide bombings and targeted killings, and carrying a $10 million bounty on his head, Mr. Sharaa, who until recently was known as Abu Mohammed al-Golani, is now a very close partner of Washington. After their meeting, U.S. President Donald Trump said that he "gets along with him". In December, only weeks after Mr. Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) toppled the secular Ba'athist regime of President Bashar al-Assad and seized Damascus, the U.S. lifted the bounty on the former jihadist commander. Earlier this week, Mr. Trump granted Syria wide exemptions on sanctions, and pressed Congress to repeal a 2019 law that imposed harsh penalties on the country, while Syria promised to join the war against the Islamic State. Mr. Sharaa has also signalled his desire to improve ties with Israel, America's closest ally in West Asia, even as Israel grabbed more Syrian territories in the Golan region after Mr. Assad's fall. Reports suggest the U.S. is preparing its presence at an airbase in Damascus as it brokers a Syria-Israel security pact. The message is clear: Syria, under Mr. Sharaa, seeks entry into the U.S.-led regional order, and Washington is reciprocating enthusiastically.

While allowing a country of 25 million people battered by western sanctions, foreign interventions and civil war, to join the regional economic mainstream is welcome, what troubles many is Mr. Sharaa's not-so-distant past. He was Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's choice to open al-Qaeda's Syria branch. He split with Baghdadi when the latter founded the Islamic State in the early 2010s, and remained loyal to Ayman al-Zawahiri's al-Qaeda. Mr. Sharaa began to distance himself from al-Qaeda only after his forces captured Idlib, which became the hub of anti-Assad factions. As the ruler of Idlib, he maintained close ties with Türkiye. In November 2024, his HTS launched a rapid offensive against the Syrian army, which was badly hurt by Israeli bombings, and captured Damascus. Soon after, he was embraced by regional and western governments alike. While Mr. Sharaa has promised to build an inclusive Syria, the country has witnessed at least two massacres against minorities – against Alawites and the Druze. His attempts to centralise power through sham elections have deepened sectarian divides. Transnational jihadists within the HTS continue to operate freely. But the U.S., once vocally concerned about the human rights situation in Syria under Mr. Assad, appears to have given a free pass to Mr. Sharaa. If he is rehabilitated without accountability for his past and scrutiny of his present rule, Syria's wounds will remain unhealed, keeping it on the brink for years to come.

Donald Trump shakes up the global nuclear order

Rakesh Sood

is a former diplomat and is currently Distinguished Fellow at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR)

Today, the global nuclear order offers a curious contradiction – since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, nuclear weapons have not been used during the last 80 years. The global nuclear arsenals have come down from a high of 65,000 bombs in late 1970s to less than 12,500 today. And, despite concerns in the 1960s that by 1980, there may be at least two dozen states with nuclear weapons, the total today remains nine – five (the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China) are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council who had tested before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into being while four more developed their nuclear arsenals later (Israel, Pakistan, India and North Korea).

Looking back, these would seem to be impressive achievements but nobody is celebrating. In fact, the prevailing sentiment is that the global nuclear order is under strain and the recent announcements by U.S. President Donald Trump may weaken all three elements of the global nuclear order.

Resumption of 'nuclear tests'

On October 30, 2025, on his way to a meeting with China's President Xi Jinping in Busan, Mr. Trump announced on Truth Social, "Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately." He added, "Russia is second, China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years."

While it was clear that the message was directed at Russia and China, it was unclear whether Mr. Trump was referring to 'nuclear explosive testing' or the testing of nuclear weapon systems. Second, the nuclear labs (Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore, and Sandia) and the Nevada testing facilities fall under the Department of Energy and not the Department of War.

It is no secret that China, Russia, and the U.S. are designing and developing new nuclear weapons. In late October, Russia tested a nuclear-powered cruise missile (Burevestnik) that travelled 14,000 kilometres, following a week later, with a test of an underwater nuclear-powered torpedo (Poseidon). China has been testing hypersonic missiles and, in 2021, tested a nuclear capable hypersonic glide vehicle carried on a rocket, capable of orbiting the earth before approaching its target from an unexpected direction that was passed off as a satellite launcher.

The U.S. is producing new warheads – a variable yield B61-13 gravity bomb, a low yield W76-2 warhead for the Trident II D-5 missile, while working on a new nuclear armed submarine launched cruise missile.

> The United States has shaped the global nuclear order and it would be ironic if its President's actions now become the catalyst for its demise

Yet, they have refrained from explosive testing. Russia's last explosive test was in 1990 while the U.S. declared a moratorium on tests in 1992. In 1993, the U.S. created a Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programme under the National Nuclear Security Administration to work on warhead modernisation, life extension and development of new safety protocols in warhead design. U.S. President Bill Clinton also took the lead in pushing negotiations in Geneva for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). China and France concluded their tests in 1996, six months before the negotiations ended.

Why the CTBT lacks a definition

Twenty-nine years later, the CTBT has not entered into force despite 187 countries signing it. Among the necessary ratifications, the U.S., China, Israel, Egypt, and Iran have not done so, Russia did and withdrew its ratification in 2023, and India, Pakistan and North Korea have neither signed nor ratified it. India and Pakistan tested in 1998 and have since observed a voluntary moratorium, and North Korea conducted six tests between 2006 and 2017. Given today's geopolitics, the prospects for the CTBT entering into force appear bleak.

Second, the CTBT obliges states "not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion". The U.S. was opposed to defining the terms, and instead, worked out private understandings with Russia and China on 'zero-yield-tests'; this permitted hydro-nuclear tests that do not produce a self-sustaining supercritical chain reaction.

The U.S. had conducted over a thousand nuclear tests and Russia 727 tests, giving them an adequate data base. China, with only 47 tests, also went along with this understanding. Thus, the CTBT delegitimised only nuclear-explosive testing, not nuclear weapons, the reason why India never joined it.

In 2019-20, the U.S. State Department assessed that Russia and China "may have conducted low yield nuclear tests in a manner inconsistent with the U.S. zero-yield standard" though this was negated by the CTBT organisation that declared that their monitoring network with over 300 monitoring stations spread over 89 countries had not detected any inconsistent activity.

In a TV interview on November 2, Mr. Trump doubled down on resuming nuclear testing, this time including Pakistan and North Korea among the countries testing. A clarification came the same day from U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright on Fox News, calling the U.S. tests 'systems-tests'. "These are not nuclear explosions. These are what we call noncritical explosions," he said. However, Mr. Trump's intention remains unclear.

The new low-yield warheads being designed make them more usable and the new systems (hypersonics, cruise and unmanned systems) are dual capable systems, leading to renewed research for missile defences such as the U.S. 'golden dome'. Meanwhile, doctrinal changes are being considered to cope with new technological developments in cyber and space domains. This raises doubts about the nuclear taboo in the coming decades.

The sole surviving U.S.-Russia arms control agreement, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) that limits the U.S. and Russian strategic forces to 700 launchers and 1,550 warheads is due to expire on February 4, 2026 with no prospects of any talks on the horizon. China is not a party to any arms control and its nuclear arsenal that had remained below 300, is undergoing a rapid expansion, estimated at 600 today, and likely to exceed 1,000 by 2030. An incipient nuclear arms race was already underway; a resumption of explosive testing will just take the lid off.

Russia and China have denied Mr. Trump's allegations regarding clandestine tests, but will follow if the U.S. resumes explosive testing. China will be the biggest beneficiary because with only 47 tests (compared to over 1,000 by the U.S.), resumed tests will help it to validate new designs and accumulate data.

India has been observing a voluntary moratorium. But if explosive testing resumes, India will certainly resume testing to validate its boosted fission and thermonuclear designs, tested only once in 1998. Undoubtedly, Pakistan will follow but given its growing strategic linkages with China witnessed during Operation Sindoor, this need hardly adds to India's concerns.

Though the CTBT is not in force, it did create a norm. But a resumption of explosive testing will lead to its demise. It will also tempt the nuclear wannabes to follow and mark the unravelling of the NPT led non-proliferation regime.

The taboo against use must remain intact

The U.S. has been the most significant player in shaping the global nuclear order. It would be ironic if Mr. Trump's actions now become the catalyst for its demise. The reality is that the present global nuclear order was shaped by the geopolitics of the 20th century. The challenge today is to craft a new nuclear order that reflects the fractured geopolitics of the 21st century while ensuring that the taboo against their use remains intact.

The United Nations Secretary General has cautioned that "current nuclear risks are already alarmingly high" and urged nations "to avoid all actions that could lead to miscalculation or escalation with catastrophic consequences." But is anyone listening?

The Tamil Nadu model of sub-State climate action

Supriya Sahu

is Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

Srinivas Krishnaswamy

is CEO, Vasudha Foundation

Tamil Nadu's approach to climate action and biodiversity conservation is anchored in the belief that effective leadership begins on the ground, where policies are implemented, communities participate and results can be measured. To translate this principle into practice, the State created one of India's first dedicated agencies to coordinate and track all climate-related work, i.e., the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC). Through its four key missions – the The Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM), The Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTNM), The Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission (TNWM) and The Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission (TN SHORE) – the TNGCC drives emission reduction, ecosystem restoration and livelihood resilience.

A net zero pathway, pilot districts

With the aim to make Tamil Nadu Net Zero well before 2070, the State has released a detailed Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory covering annual emissions across all sectors and sub-sectors, from 2005 to 2019, and developed a detailed Net Zero Pathway.

Findings from the State's GHG inventory reveal encouraging trends. Despite being one of India's most industrialised States, Tamil Nadu contributed only 7% of the country's total emissions in 2019. Moreover, between 2005 and 2019, it reduced its emission intensity to GDP by nearly 60%.

This progress reflects targeted interventions across key sectors: rapid expansion of renewable energy, improved energy efficiency, industrial decarbonisation and an ambitious electric-mobility programme that aims to electrify all public transport. Today, renewable energy accounts for about 60% of Tamil Nadu's total installed power capacity and 30% of total electricity generated.

In order to meet its goal of being net zero well before 2070, the State has also embarked on a bottom-up climate action planning and implementation. The State has recently launched district-level decarbonisation plans and a real-time Climate Action Tracker developed in collaboration with the Vasudha Foundation, embedding climate action directly into local governance. The decarbonisation plans for four pilot districts – The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar – show that these districts can abate up to 92% of projected emissions (of the four districts) by 2050 through clean energy adoption, mobility transformation, industrial efficiency and nature-based solutions. They also have the potential to sequester nearly three million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050.

> In the State's 'bottom-up' approach, district-level decarbonisation plans and a real-time tracker are helping shape climate actions at the local and sub-local levels

The Climate Action Plans and decarbonisation pathways for the four districts build on a detailed district-level greenhouse gas emissions inventories along with a detailed climate variability assessment based on historic and current climate data and projecting the assessments till end of the century. What came across consistently is that if greenhouse gases are left unabated not just in the four districts but across India and globally, the number of warm days would increase significantly by about 95% by 2100, with a substantial increase in precipitation levels, leading to a wetter monsoon, impacting the region, particularly the vulnerable Nilgiris district.

Responsible factors

Road transport is a major contributor to the GHG emissions in the Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts (close to 43% and 36% of the total emissions, respectively), followed closely by residential energy consumption (20% and 12%). Cement, road transport and industrial energy were the highest GHG contributors in Virudhunagar (37%, 20% and 16%, respectively). In Ramanathapuram, public electricity generation and rice cultivation (28% and 12%, respectively) were the contributors.

Building on the emissions trajectories and identifying the key driver of emissions, the action plans propose a shovel ready list of projects to be implemented each year, from 2025, covering electric mobility, waste management, forest restorations and industrial decarbonisation – all tailor-made for each district. When implemented, the Nilgiris district can become net zero by 2030 even in a moderate scenario. Ramanathapuram can become net zero by 2047 in an aggressive scenario which will mean lifestyle changes to some extent. However, due to a high level of industrialisation, Coimbatore and Virudhunagar can become net zero by about 2055.

The approach views climate change not as a constraint but as an opportunity to pursue growth that safeguards both nature and people. Similar plans will soon be developed for all the 38 districts in Tamil Nadu.

The Climate Action Tracker is designed around a simple premise: what gets measured, gets done. Together, they create a transparent, evidence-based system for planning and accountability, ensuring that every district can monitor its progress and refine its strategies. To support effective implementation, a dedicated Project Management Unit is being established in the four pilot districts. The action tracker and the action plans can be accessed at https://tnclimatetracker.tn.gov.in

Other schemes, community focus

Other key initiatives of Tamil Nadu include large-scale afforestation, mangroves, wetland restoration and biodiversity protection. The State now hosts 20 Ramsar-designated wetlands, and has ensured that 30% of its total land area is protected. Along Tamil Nadu's 1,068-kilometre coastline, massive efforts are being undertaken in restoring mangroves and seascapes while supporting coastal livelihoods.

By expanding the focus beyond energy and industry to include agriculture, livestock and waste, Tamil Nadu is broadening the scope of its low-carbon transition.

Communities are being placed at the centre of this transformation, turning climate action into a participatory process. The choices made today at the local and sub-local levels will shape the future of the State's economy, ecosystems, and communities. Tamil Nadu's experience underscores the point that climate leadership is no longer about setting ambitious targets but about building systems that make progress visible, verifiable and participatory.

As India advances toward its net-zero future, Tamil Nadu's model offers a valuable complement by showing how national intent can be deepened through local innovation and evidence-led governance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Evading the eye in the sky

As in the case of the stray dog menace issue, the intervention of the Supreme Court of India has become crucial in the stubble burning issue and its deep impact on air quality. However, it is quite surprising that the Court needs to intervene in a situation where farmers and the authorities ought to have managed the issue of stubble burning more responsibly rather than evading surveillance by satellites, as reported (Inside pages, November 13). It is deplorable that technological development is being exploited in a negative way instead of using science to evolve constructive ways of waste disposal.

Jiji Panicker K.,
Angadickal, Chengannur, Kerala

Verdicts, time taken

The Supreme Court's move to urge High Court judges to make public the time taken to deliver verdicts is a necessary reform (Front Page, November 13). Regularly updating this data on official High Court websites would make the justice system more accountable and reinforce the principle that justice delayed is justice denied.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Should public celebrations or expression of devotion be avoided?

PARLEY

Tanika Sarkar

Retired Professor of History at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

Sanjay Hegde

Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India

Earlier this week, a video purportedly showing a group of people offering namaz at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru ignited a political controversy in Karnataka, with the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party taking exception to the incident and demanding accountability from the State government. Around the same time, in Uttar Pradesh, the police began removing unauthorised sound systems from mosques and temples in some areas. In India, it is common to see Navratri celebrations at the airport, namaz on railway platforms, commemoration of Sikh Gurus' Jayanti on the roads of Delhi, hear azaan on a loudspeaker five times a day, and jagrans all night long. India is undeniably demonstrative about religion in public space. Should public celebrations or expression of devotion be avoided? Tanika Sarkar and Sanjay Hegde discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Ziya Us Salam**. Edited excerpts:

Has India always been so demonstrative about religion?

Tanika Sarkar: India has always been fairly demonstrative. This is especially where Hindu festivals and ceremonies are concerned because they are more numerous and varied than the religious festivals of other communities. But this phenomenon has grown. For instance, during the latter half of the year, we start with Navratri, followed by Dussehra, Karwa Chauth, Deepavali, Govardhan Puja, Chhath Puja, and so on. During this entire time, the atmosphere is noisy and traffic comes to a standstill. Festivals were always there, but they are now increasing in number.

Isn't this a celebration of life and positivity?

TS: Yes, but this brings civic life to a standstill and takes over public places. Ambulances carrying patients can't proceed an inch. I don't think that is a celebration of positivity. I am also thinking of the crackers and the restrictions removed this year. Delhi, where I live, hasn't been the same since then.

The examples you gave are essentially of Hindu festivals. But the minorities are not above board. Post-2020, most mosques have started having multiple service sessions on Fridays to avoid worshippers spilling onto the road outside. But why did community leaders need COVID-19 to practise what should have been done earlier?

A loudspeaker near a temple in Bengaluru. MURALI KUMAR K.

TS: That is true. When the azaan is being chanted in the morning, loudspeakers broadcast bhajans. It has become competitive.

Sanjay Hegde: On this mosque and azaan question, I understand that the call to prayer has to be made, but it is a cacophony when several mosques within a few meters of each other start at different times. Community leaders should intervene so that the azaan can be broadcast once from one central place. Today, nothing prevents a mosque from broadcasting, say, on a WhatsApp group. And this is true of all communities. We need to take into account the old proverb that an Englishman's freedom ends where a Frenchman's nose begins. Be careful of your neighbours' welfare and their sensitivities.

The Constitution allows us to follow our religion and practice it. But where does one draw a line, legally speaking?

SH: Legally speaking, your religious practices are protected, but it is only those practices which are essential to the religion, and not necessarily everything which is of a religious nature. For instance, if I were to take the example of a Hindu temple, the performance of a *puja* is essential – that cannot be stopped. However, if the government directs the administration to ensure that the ghee and oil used for the lamps are of good quality, that is certainly a matter that can be regulated. Equally, you can regulate religious practices on grounds of public order. There was the Anand Margi case from Calcutta [early 1980s]. The Anand Margis said it was an essential religious practice to take out a public procession with a skull, a dagger, etc. The Supreme Court said, no, you are not a separate religion; you are a sect of Hinduism. It was claimed that the Tandava dance was an essential religious practice. And the judges said

> Only those practices which are essential to the religion, and not necessarily everything which is of a religious nature, are protected [by the Constitution].
>
> SANJAY HEGDE

you have not shown any proof that this started with the foundation of your sect; this is a later innovation. So the test that the courts adopt is that of an essential religious practice.

If you are talking of Islam, I don't think anyone can regulate the prayer itself, or even the call to prayer. But if you were to regulate the noise regarding the prayer call, or say that in an area, only one mosque will broadcast the azaan, I don't think a court would interfere or say that every mosque could have a separate call.

In recent years, there seems to be greater display of religion in public places. How far removed is that from Holi, Deepavali or even Ram Navami celebrations during the age of the Mughals and the British?

TS: Do I dare say that greater licence is given to Hindu religious festivals? I'm talking not about daily religious practices, but festivals now seem to take place throughout the entire year. Karwa Chauth used to be a domestic festival. Now there are *melas* and processions being carried out with even the Prime Minister giving messages.

That is politicisation of religion...

TS: It is politicisation of religion when you display it in public relentlessly, with noise, fanfare, psychedelic lights, and crowds. Delhi is just saturated.

Not just Delhi. We have visuals from Ahmedabad where people are dancing on Navaratri at the airport and the airlines staff are joining them. How does one handle that?

TS: I don't think anyone is going to handle that. They have a licence – not a formal legal licence, but a political licence.

What you are effectively saying is what the Constitution grants us as freedom has now been turned into a licence.

TS: I would say that.

People now have stickers of an angry Hanuman on their cars. Is that kind of public display of religion about religiosity or is it about sending a message to others?

SH: I don't think this is religiosity. Religiosity, spiritualism, and one's personal quest towards the almighty is a different thing altogether. This is religious consolidation. It is a display of 'I am on this team' and 'I am not on that team'. Is it more apparent in society? Yes. If you read E.M. Foster's *Passage to India*, he speaks of the British administration's problem when there were competing processions of Moharram and Ganesh Chaturthi. Our society has been consolidating around religious identity.

Is the celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday through a procession part of the reaction of minorities to demonstrative celebrations of Ganesh Chaturthi and so on?

TS: It is competitive. It is also a question of hurt sentiments. You can shout 'Jai Shri Ram' during any procession, but you can't hold up a poster saying, 'I love Muhammad'; that could lead to violence. So, there is a feeling of discrimination. That leads to, on the Muslim part, I suppose, stepping up the religious ostentation. This conflict was evident from the 1920s – playing music in front of mosques at prayer time, taking a procession outside them with loud bhajans, etc. often led to riots.

People enjoy immunity no matter what they do?

TS: Yes. And there is no immunity to minorities. People are being prevented from going to church or even from holding prayer meetings in their own homes in places such as Chhattisgarh. Religion is increasingly becoming a means of everyday intimidation.

What does this say about our polity?

SH: Our political leaders have followed the same principle of divide and rule that our previous rulers followed. As long as you can convince the majority that they are actually a hurt minority, or you can convince the minority that but for the protection of one set of people, they would be at the mercy of the majority, you consolidate your camps. And the great mass who are actually apolitical tend to get pushed into respective corners.

So, is it time for rational religiosity?

TS: That has been eroded substantially.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The perils of translation

Failures to translate words without considering the cultural context, historical reverence, and linguistic nuances can prove disastrous

B. Kolappan

Recently, journalists of *The Hindu* interacted with Tamil film director Mari Selvaraj at the office in Chennai. A native of southern Tamil Nadu, Mr. Selvaraj spoke of how reading literature helped him understand where to draw creative boundaries.

Much like how words get lost in translation in literature sometimes, Mr. Selvaraj's films are littered with local imagery and dialects which are either difficult to grasp for those from other regions, or offer a different meaning. In *Vaazhai*, characters often used the words *thoora po*. When translated into the English, this means "go away", but in the dialects of southern Tamil Nadu, it means "get lost". During the interaction at the office too, some of what was said got lost in translation and needed to be clarified.

Journalists also routinely struggle with translation. It is like walking on a knife edge. Any failure to translate a phrase or word without taking into account the cultural context, historical reverence, and linguistic nuances may prove disastrous.

As a journalist who launched his career in a Tamil newspaper, it has always been a challenge for me to translate the intended meaning of a speaker. I once made a mistake while translating Western countries' "ulterior" motive in the Kosovo crisis for a newspaper. In that context, "ulterior" meant something existing beyond what is admitted, but I translated it as "inner motive" (*ul nokkam*).

In Chennai, whenever a leader from Delhi met the press, it would be followed by another press briefing with Tamil journalists. When we were told that Kamini, a reactor in the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station, had "attained criticality", we were unable to find a suitable phrase to describe the fact that the reactor had reached a state in which it was stable and self-sustaining in a nuclear chain reaction. We could only roughly translate it to convey that it had started functioning.

I confronted similar issues when I began reporting for English language publications. Sometimes, leaders use playful puns which make a tremendous impact, but are difficult to translate. There was once a tug-of-war between the DMK and the CPI over the allocation of the Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency. I asked former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi whether there was any *sikkal* (problem) in sharing the seat with the CPI. He quipped, "*Nagapattinathukku pakkathil than Sikkal irukkirathu.*" "Sikkal" is a town near Nagapattinam, and he used the word as a pun. Even the best translation would not do justice to his pun.

I have also suffered from having my own writing translated. A book that deepened my respect for the Marudu Brothers, the rulers of the Sivaganga kingdom in 18th century India, is *Military Reminiscences*, by British officer Colonel James Welsh. He expresses unqualified admiration for Periya Marudu and Chinna Marudu as he learned Silambam and the throwing of the Valari (a boomerang-like weapon) from them. I quoted Welsh faithfully in my articles, but I found myself in trouble when someone translated one of my pieces into the Tamil. There were threats made over call to the office and to me. None of the callers had read my original article, but they were offended by a single reference to the Marudu Brothers as "dog keepers". It is believed that the Marudu Brothers, as royals, kept an army of dogs that would tear apart the hamstrings of rival horses. Unfortunately, the translator rendered "dog keepers" as *Naai Meipavarkal* – herding dogs, a demeaning expression in Tamil.

This brings to my mind what the writer, Valampuri John, said, while participating in a meeting of the CPI(M) – that the communist movement failed to achieve what it could have because of translation problems. *"Left Wing" Communism: An Infantile Disorder* by Vladimir Lenin was translated as *Idathusari Communism-Ilamparuva Kolarau*, implying a disorder suffered by young communists. Christianity, on the other hand, he said, was embraced by more people because of beautiful translation.

kolappan.b@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Fields of fire

A farmer burns stubble on the outskirts of Lucknow. The Uttar Pradesh government is implementing several measures to curb stubble burning, including satellite monitoring, imposing fines, and promoting alternative solutions such as bio-decomposers and residue management machines. SANDEEP SAXENA

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 14, 1975

India's stress on use of nuclear technology

United Nations, Nov. 13: Mr. Rikhi Jaipal, Permanent Representative of India, told the UN General Assembly yesterday that at present more emphasis was being placed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on regulatory aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy than on its promotional and development aspects.

This imbalance in the policy of IAEA, he said, should be corrected.

He was speaking during the debate on the annual report of IAEA covering the Vienna-based Agency's activities during 1974-75. The report was later approved by the Assembly.

Mr. Jaipal said the various studies carried out by the Agency made it clear that the technology of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes was 'feasible'.

Further experimentation should open up possibilities for the application of this technology in industry, construction operations and scientific research. It was essential that the development of this technology was not hampered by artificially created difficulties, similar to the obstacles placed in the early years against the designing of nuclear reactors and more recently against locating their sites.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 14, 1925

Cologne evacuation

Leafield (Oxford), Mid Nov. 13/14: The Allied Powers are for making known at the earliest possible moment certain readjustments of their relationships with Germany which are the outcome of the new atmosphere engendered by the Agreement at Locarno. As has been anticipated, it is proposed to announce the date on which the Evacuation of Cologne shall begin and at the same time to inaugurate a policy of alleviation in Rhineland, involving, among other things, the abolition of the major portion of the Ordinances instituted by the occupying authorities.

From Page One

2 more held for Delhi blast; varsity faces audit

Dr. Farukh, an assistant professor of obstetrics at Hapur's G.S. Medical College, was detained by Delhi Police from the college campus on Wednesday night, PTI reported. He had completed his medical education from Al-Falah University.

Official sources said that Mohammad Arif Mir, a native of Khagund Qazigund in J&K and a first-year student at the Laxmipat Singhania Institute of Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery of the state-run Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial (GSVM) Medical College in Kanpur, was also detained by the U.P. anti-terrorist squad. He is suspected of being in touch with Dr. Shaheen Sayeed, a former GSVM professor who worked at Al-Falah and has been arrested for "amassing explosives" over the past year. The U.P. ATS later searched Mr. Mir's rented accommodation in Nazirabad and seized his mobile phone and laptop for forensic examination before taking him to Delhi for questioning.

J&K police are searching for Dr. Muzaffar, who is believed to have shifted to Dubai earlier this year. He is the brother of Dr. Adeel Ahmad Rather who has already been arrested. On November 7, an AK-47 rifle was recovered from Dr. Rather's locker at the Anantnag Medical College, where he worked as a senior resident until October 24, 2024.

The Delhi police visited the Shri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir which lies across the road from the Red Fort, to collect pieces of blast evidence strewn across the temple premises. "The FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) team has collected all the evidence from the temple and sent it for further investigation," said a senior Delhi Police officer, adding that the team had also visited the Lala Lajpat Rai market where a dismembered body part was found. The Delhi police complained of gaps in information shared between police teams in different States, with one Delhi police officer telling *The Hindu* that they had not been alerted about the movement of a "high profile suspect" by the J&K or Haryana police. "If we had been alerted about that, then we would have alerted all our check points," the officer said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the punishment for the culprits will send a message to the world that no terrorist should even dare to think of committing such an act in India.
(With PTI inputs)

Trump signs Bill to end longest U.S. shutdown

The Bill cleared the Senate earlier in the week.

The shutdown's end offers some hope that services crucial to air travel in particular would have some time to recover with the critical Thanksgiving holiday travel wave just two weeks away. Restoration of food aid to millions of families may also make room in household budgets for spending as the Christmas shopping season moves into high gear.

The vote came eight days after Democrats won several high-profile elections that many in the party thought strengthened their odds of winning an extension of health insurance subsidies, which are due to expire at the end of the year.

While the deal sets up a December vote on those subsidies in the Senate, Speaker Mike Johnson has made no such promise in the House.

Despite the recriminations, neither party appears to have won a clear victory. A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday found that 50% of Americans blamed Republicans for the shutdown, while 47% blamed Democrats.

NC, PDP slam notice seeking registration of Kashmiris

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The ruling National Conference (NC) and the Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday reacted sharply to a notice issued by the Gurugram police to housing societies, asking them to register Kashmiris and foreigners residing there.

"We are Indians, we don't need to be treated as foreigners in our own country. This order is both absurd and unfortunate... It not only puts every innocent Kashmiri at risk but also raises serious questions about how citizens of J&K are being treated elsewhere in India," NC leader and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said in a post on X.

PDP leader Zuhaib Mir, while describing the Red Fort blast as "barbaric and senseless", said he had received distress calls from Delhi, especially from Kashmiri students. "They were being asked by landlords to vacate their rented accommodations. Xenophobia is taking root once again, and it is frightening to imagine where it might lead if unchecked," Mr. Mir said. He urged leaders and citizens to "not alienate or discriminate against anyone on the basis of religion or ethnicity".

Congress asks govt. if post-Pahalgam 'act of war' doctrine remains

It seeks all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister, asks why 48 hours after the blast near Red Fort, it was the Cabinet that called it 'terror attack'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Demanding an all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Delhi blast, the Congress on Thursday asked the government whether the "new normal doctrine" of treating any terror attack as an "act of war", invoked after the Pahalgam attack, still stands.

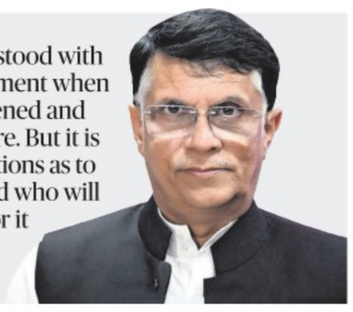
The Union government had called the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack an "act of war" and launched Operation Sindoor to target terrorist infrastructure across the border in Pakistan.

On Wednesday, the Union Cabinet had termed the blast near the Red Fort which left 13 people dead as a "terrorist incident".

"The surprising thing is that after 48 hours of the blast near the Red Fort, it was the Cabinet that announced this was a terror attack," Congress leader Pawan Khera said at a press conference.

Mr. Khera, who heads the Congress's media and publicity department, asked who was accountable for the security lapse and how such huge quantities of explosive could enter the city without being detected.

> We always stood with the government when a terror attack happened and will do so in the future. But it is our duty to ask questions as to whose failure it is and who will take responsibility for it
> **PAWAN KHERA**
> Congress leader



He pointed out that when the 2008 Mumbai terror attack took place, Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil had resigned.

Despite the presence of intelligence agencies, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval keeping a close watch, how did 2,900 kg of explosive reach Faridabad, the Congress leader asked.

"In a car, there was so much explosive near the Red Fort... Who is taking responsibility for this and is accountability being fixed?" Mr. Khera asked.

"We always stood with the government when a terror attack happened and will do so in the future. But it is our duty to ask questions as to whose failure it is and who will take responsibility for it," he added.

Debate sought

The Congress's demand was that an all-party meeting under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister be called immediately, he said.

Mr. Khera also demanded that the Winter Session of Parliament, scheduled to start on December 1, be advanced so that there could be a debate on the incident.

"We also demand that Parliament session be advanced as this is a serious challenge and must be discussed in Parliament," Mr. Khera said.

Al-Falah University website taken down after NAAC notice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The website of the Al-Falah University in Faridabad was taken down on Thursday after a show-cause notice was issued to the institution by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council for displaying a false accreditation claim.

Days after it was revealed that the occupant of the car that exploded near the Red Fort on Monday was a junior doctor at the university, the NAAC issued a show-cause notice asking why the institution continued to advertise itself as having Grade A certification from the NAAC, even though this certification had expired.

The NAAC, in its notice to the Registrar of the university, said two of the university's colleges – Al-Falah School of Engineering and Technology and the Al-Falah School of Education and Training – had been certified as Grade A in 2013 and 2011, respectively.

It noted that these certifications were valid till 2018 and 2016, respectively, following which neither of the colleges had volunteered for the Cycle-2 assessment and accreditation process of the NAAC. Despite this, the university website continued to show

A scene outside Al-Falah University in Haryana on Wednesday.

the colleges as having been graded by the accrediting authority. The NAAC said "this was absolutely wrong and misleading the public, especially the parents, students, and stakeholders"."

The university has been asked to respond to the show-cause notice within seven days of receiving it.

In the notice, the NAAC asked the university to explain why it should not be disqualified for future assessment and accreditation, and why it should not be stripped of its recognition by bodies like the UGC, National Medical Council, National Council for Teacher Education, and the All India Council for Technical Education.

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) also suspended the Al-Falah University's membership, saying it "does not appear to be in good standing".

Police reconstruct Red Fort blast suspect's last hours using footage from 50 cameras

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday reconstructed the last hours of Umar Nabi, the lone occupant of the car that exploded near Red Fort on Monday, killing 13 people so far. His movements, right from leaving Faridabad the night before the blast to its execution, have been reconstructed using footage from more than 50 cameras.

The investigators also found that the three main suspects, all medical doctors linked to the Al-Falah University – Nabi, who was behind the wheels of the Hyundai i20 that was laden with explosives, Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie, and Shaheen Shahid – allegedly used a Switzerland-based encrypted messaging app Threema to plan and coordinate their activities related to the terror conspiracy.

Nabi had also created a Signal app group with two to four members to coordinate their operations.

Chemical purchases

Police investigating the blast said the suspects had pooled more than ₹26 lakh in cash, which was handed over to Nabi for safekeeping and operational use.

Notebooks and diaries recovered from the rooms

CCTV footage shows the car driven by Umar Nabi crossing the Badarpur border toll plaza.

of Dr. Ghanaie (Room 13) and Nabi (Room 4) at the campus of Al-Falah University contained several coded entries, names, and numerical sequences dated between November 8 and 12, suggesting detailed planning for multiple attacks. They also had rented accommodations to store explosives, the police said.

The chilling hours of his journey from Haryana to the national capital have been pieced together bit by bit in a route-mapping exercise, showing how he halted for food at a roadside eatery near Delhi-Mumbai expressway and spent the night inside his car before entering the national capital the next morning.

A police source said he started on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway on Sunday and then got off the expressway, reaching Firozpur Jhirka in Haryana's Nuh district.

Later, on Monday morning, he was again seen on CCTV cameras installed along the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, driving slowly towards Delhi.

Police said Nabi entered Delhi the following morning through the Badarpur border, using the same route he had taken earlier from Faridabad.

"He seemed to have planned every step, including his entry and exit routes, to avoid detection," said the police source.

Mirwaiz, Ravi Shankar discuss peace and harmony

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who met Art of Living Foundation founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in Srinagar on Thursday, said injustice and disempowerment lead to radicalisation that threatens peace.

A spokesman of the Mirwaiz said the cleric said he was committed to "peace and dialogue as the most humane and effective means of addressing issues and resolving differences". They discussed the importance of inter-faith harmony, the spokesperson said.

ED arrests former CMD of Jaypee Infratech

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested Manoj Gaur, former executive chairman and chief executive officer of Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL), and former chairman and managing director of Jaypee Infratech Limited (JIL), on money-laundering charges.

The ED is conducting a probe against the Jaypee Group based on multiple cases registered by police, following complaints filed by homebuyers in the Jaypee Wishtown and Jaypee Greens projects.

"It has been alleged that the funds collected from thousands of homebuyers for construction and completion of residential projects were diverted for purposes other than construction, leaving the homebuyers defrauded and their projects incomplete," the ED said.

ED attaches assets worth ₹61.2 crore of Chaitanya Baghel

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Thursday said that it has provisionally attached assets worth ₹61.2 crore belonging to Chaitanya Baghel - the son of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel - who is facing a money laundering probe linked to the alleged liquor scam in the State.

In a statement issued by the Raipur Zonal Office of the ED, the agency said that the list of attached assets include immovable properties in the form of 364 pieces of residential plots and agricultural lands worth ₹59.96 crore.

The agency added that the movable properties in the form of bank balances and fixed deposits worth ₹1.24 crore were also attached.

The predicate offence is a case under Prevention of

Chaitanya Baghel

Corruption Act, 1988, which pertains to the alleged scam that purportedly took place when the State was being ruled by the Congress with Mr. Bhupesh Baghel as the Chief Minister.

On the money laundering angle and the specific role of Mr. Chaitanya, who has been in jail since July this year, the ED statement noted that "Chaitanya Baghel, son of Bhupesh Baghel, was positioned at the apex of the liquor syndicate". His position as the Chief Minister's son made him the controller, it said.

'Manmohan Singh brought high economic growth despite multiple constraints'

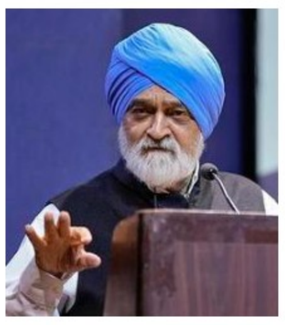
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

One of the important achievements of the late Manmohan Singh's 10-year tenure as Prime Minister was retaining the focus on economic growth, eminent economist and former Deputy Chairperson of the then Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia said on Thursday.

Mr. Ahluwalia was delivering a lecture on the "Life and legacy of Dr. Manmohan Singh" at the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library here.

He classified Dr. Singh's long and highly distinguished career into three parts – as an economist-bureaucrat, 1970-1991; as Finance Minister of India, 1991-1996; and as Prime Minister, 2004-2014.

He argued that Dr. Singh's tenure as the Finance Minister was the high point of his career as


Montek Singh Ahluwalia

it was transformative for the nation. He said that as Prime Minister, Dr. Singh made significant contributions in bringing about the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear deal, apart from ensuring that the economic reforms launched earlier were not rolled back despite opposition from within his party.

He noted that all Dr. Singh's efforts contributed to high economic growth in the range of 8-9% between 2004 and 2010. "If you take the 10 years together, one important thing was retaining the focus on economic growth", Mr. Ahluwalia said.

Political environment

Mr. Ahluwalia said that he (Dr. Singh) was very aware that there were multiple constraints on him. And it was much more than the constraints of coalition politics.

"Within the system there was this division between the Prime Minister and Mrs. (Sonia) Gandhi... That was also unavoidable because he was not the leader of the Congress party. She had led the Congress party, so that was some arrangement. One could argue if it was a good or not good arrangement, but it was clearly a 'khichdi' type government and it was quite a miracle that they stayed together for five years".

India, Nepal ink pact to step up trade ties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Nepal have amended the Treaty of Transit between the two countries to facilitate the movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani in India and Biratnagar in Nepal, including bulk cargo.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Nepal's Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies Anil Kumar Sinha met in New Delhi on Thursday to exchange the letters amending the protocol to the Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal. "This liberalisation extends to key transit corridors – Kolkata-Jogbani, Kolkata-Nautanwa (Sunauli), and Visakhapatnam-Nautanwa (Sunauli), thereby strengthening multimodal trade connectivity between the two countries and Nepal's trade with third countries," the government said in a release.

The two Ministers also welcomed the ongoing bilateral initiatives to boost cross-border connectivity and trade.

APPEAL

Baby ISHAN BARMAN, Hospital **No.MH017509910**, 5 Months old son of Mr. Sukumar Barman admitted Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Disease, Tetralogy of Fallot, Confluent branch PAs Mc Goon's Ratio of 1.6, Major Coronary Crossing RVOT. He is advised to undergo early Antegrade Palliation operation at the earliest. The estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.5,50,000/-

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Ishan Barman, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. 044-42044165 & 044-35691848, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com.

Cong. asks EC to allow more time for SIR in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh unit of Congress party has written to the State Election Commission, seeking to extend the one-month deadline for the special intensive revision (SIR) of the voters' list.

While the SIR is currently under way in the State, the Congress sought to extend the deadline to three months as "authentic and accurate data can be provided with sufficient time".

In six points, the Congress has said that there is a need to ensure transparency and widespread public participation in the electoral roll revision programme, highlighting issues related to logistics and timing.

"Much of Chhattisgarh is rural, tribal, and forested. Communication facilities in these areas are limited, and many villages are remote and lack adequate communication or transportation facilities. Therefore, it takes time for election-related information to reach people."

"Furthermore, citizens in these areas naturally face difficulties in properly storing or obtaining their documents (such as identity cards, residence proof, age proof, etc.)," the letter noted, underlining the need for more time.

EC all set for counting in Bihar after record turnout, asks public to rely on official portal

Poll body says it is the first time in recent history that no malpractices were found at any polling station, and no repolls were ordered; JD(U) poster of CM Nitish Kumar says '*Tiger Abhi Zinda Hai*' (Tiger is still alive), while another poster at the RJD office proclaims '*Alvida chacha*' (Goodbye, uncle)

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Election Commission of India (EC) is all set to count the votes in Bihar's 243 Assembly constituencies on Friday, starting with postal ballots at 8 a.m., and the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) tallies to begin at 8:30 a.m.

A record 67.13% of voters cast their ballots in two phases of polling, the highest voter turnout in the State since 1951.

"Altogether 4,372 counting tables staffed with one counting supervisor, counting assistant and micro-observer at each table have been set up. More than 18,000 counting agents appointed by the candidates will also oversee the counting process," the EC said in a statement on Thursday. Counting will be conducted by 243 Returning Officers (ROs) in the presence of 243 Counting Observers, as well as the candidates or their agents.

The results will be compiled and made available round-wise and constituency-wise by the respective ROs on the official ECI results portal: https://results.eci.gov.in. The Commission advised the public to refer only to this portal for accurate and verified updates and not to rely on any hearsay or unofficial sources.

Eager wait: Central Reserve Police Force personnel stand guard at the entrance of A.N. College in Patna, a counting centre, on the eve of results for the Bihar Assembly election on Thursday. ANI

No repolls

According to the EC, this is the first time in recent history that no discrepancies or malpractices were found at any polling station after scrutiny, and no repolls have been recommended.

In Rohtas, however, a number of candidates shouted slogans against the district administration, complaining about the alleged unauthorised entry of a U.P. registration vehicle and the alleged removal of CCTV cameras at the EVM strongroom on the Bazar Samiti Campus in Sasaram.

The Patna Cyber Police Station also lodged an FIR against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Member of Legislative Council Sunil Singh over an inflammatory speech, in which he attacked the EC and threatened to take out mass protests such as those seen recently in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, if poll officials "forcefully defeated" the people's mandate.

Threats of mass protest

"In the 2020 Assembly election, several of our candidates in Hilsa, Bhorey, Parihar and 10 other Assembly constituencies were forcefully defeated. Two days back, when voting was under way at thousands of booths, the exit poll came to pressurise the voters by saying that the NDA is getting a majority, so the votes of the poor people who were still standing in the queue did not matter. If such a conspiracy is going on, then we are vigilant and the people of Bihar are also on alert mode," Mr. Singh told journalists in Patna.

"The people of Bihar are ready now. With folded hands we have urged all the officers involved in counting not to go against the mandate and defeat the winning candidates. If this happens, either our candidates will come outside the counting centre or the counting officers. What we witnessed in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, a similar scenario would be visible on the roads of Bihar," he warned. Criticising the EC, Mr. Singh claimed that if the Supreme Court had not made a timely intervention in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the poll body would have made dead people alive and vice versa.

The complaint against him was filed under Sections 174, 352, and 353 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 125 of the Representation of People Act and the Information Technology Act.

Poster battle

The party offices of both the ruling and Opposition alliances were buzzing on the eve of counting day, with a celebratory mood in the ruling camp after nine exit polls projected a decisive majority for the NDA. As the rival Chief Ministerial candidates – incumbent Nitish Kumar and challenger Tejashwi Yadav – held closed door meetings with leaders and allies, their party workers engaged in a poster battle.

Janata Dal (United) leader Ranjit Singh hung a poster in front of the JD(U) office displaying a picture of the Chief Minister with the words: *Tiger Abhi Zinda Hai* (Tiger is still alive). In response, Samajwadi Party leader Dharmveer Yadav put up a counter poster outside the RJD's office with the message, *Alvida Chacha* (Goodbye, Uncle) showing a picture of Mr. Kumar dreaming on a throne.

An RJD supporter in Vaishali district, Kedar Prasad Yadav, is performing a 24-hour *yagya* (ritual) praying for Mr. Yadav's victory.

For Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor, a former political strategist, counting day could have even higher stakes, as he continued to insist that if Mr. Kumar's JD(U) wins more than 25 seats, he will retire from politics.

RSS hired Pak.-linked firm for work in U.S.: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of hiring "one of Pakistan's official lobbying arms" to advance its interests in the United States, alleging that the organisation had once again "betrayed national interest".

The RSS denied the allegations. "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh works in Bharat and has not engaged any lobbying firm in United States of America," Sunil Ambekar, the chief spokesperson of the RSS, said in a post.

Earlier, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh claimed on X that the RSS had "spent a significant amount of money" to engage the American law firm Squire Patton Boggs (SPB) to lobby on its behalf in the U.S. This lobbying firm has also represented Pakistan, Mr. Ramesh alleged.

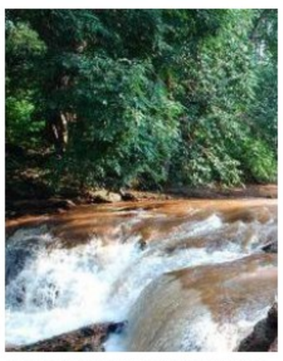
"A few days ago, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat admitted that the RSS isn't a registered organisation and does not pay taxes. Now, we learn that the RSS has engaged one of Pakistan's official lobbying arms to espouse its interests in the U.S.," he said in his post, adding that it is a pseudo-nationalist outfit.

SC bats for protection of pristine sal forest in Jharkhand's Saranda

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Jharkhand government to declare 31,468.25 hectares (approximately 314 sq. km.) of the Saranda forest area as a wildlife sanctuary, balancing biodiversity protection with sustainable iron ore mining.

"The State cannot run away from its duty to declare the extent of 31,468.25 hectares as Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai observed in the judgment.



The court said that 314 sq. km. of the Saranda forest should be a wildlife sanctuary.

Part of the ecosystem

Saranda is one of the world's most pristine sal forests, the court noted. It is home to critically endangered species, including the endemic sal forest tortoise, four-horned antelope, Asian palm civet, and wild elephants. For centuries, the area has been inhabited by the Ho, Munda, Uraon and allied Adivasi communities whose subsistence and cultural traditions are intrinsically tied to forest produce.

The Saranda forest division also accounts for 26% of India's iron ore reserves. The steel plants of SAIL and Tata are critically dependent on mining in this area. *Amicus curiae*, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, had submitted to the court that a judicial declaration of the entire area as a wildlife sanctuary would halt mining and affect employment opportunities.

The hearings had seen the Jharkhand government dither about the area that ought to be cordoned off from mining and declared a wildlife sanctuary. The State had initially suggested that only 24,941.64 hectares of forest area should be declared a sanctuary, arguing that "vital public infrastructure" in the area would have to be demolished to make space for the sanctuary. However, the Jharkhand government later clarified in court that 31,468.25 hectares of forest area, consisting of 126 compartments, neither hosted mining activities nor was used for any non-forest use.

The court, in its judgment, reminded Jharkhand that a "State has a positive obligation and a mandate to provide statutory protection to forests and wildlife and declare ecologically significant areas to be statutorily protected".

The Bench ordered the Jharkhand government to widely publicise that neither the individual nor community rights of tribals and forest dwellers in the Saranda area will be adversely affected by the judgment.

Centre releases draft Seeds Bill; farm outfits cautious, industry welcomes it

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

After two failed attempts by both the UPA and NDA governments in 2004 and 2019 to pass a similar law, the Union government has brought yet another draft Seeds Bill here on Thursday.

The Union Agriculture Ministry said the new draft is aligned with current agricultural and regulatory requirements. The proposed legislation is intended to replace the existing Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.

While the seed industry welcomed the move, farmer organisations reminded the Centre that it had to withdraw the Bill on two occasions following their resistance.

The draft Bill seeks to ensure farmers' access to high-quality seeds, the Centre said.

The Centre said in a release that the draft Seeds Bill, 2025 seeks to regulate the quality of seeds and planting materials available in the market, ensure farmers' access to high-quality seeds at affordable rates, protect farmers from losses, and liberalise seed imports to promote access to global varieties. "On the enforcement side, the draft Bill proposes to decriminalise minor offences, thereby promoting 'Ease of Doing Business' and reducing compliance burden, while maintaining strong provisions to penalise serious violations effectively," the government said.

All stakeholders and members of the public can submit their comments and suggestions on the draft Bill and its provisions by December 11.

As per the draft, every dealer in seeds shall obtain a registration certificate from the State government before selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell, import or export or otherwise supply any seed by himself or by another person on his behalf. The draft law also provides for regulation of sale of seeds so that seed varieties conform to the minimum limit of germination, genetic purity, physical purity, traits, seed health and other seed standards specified in the 'Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards'.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, senior functionary of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) Pavel Kussa said: "...On the face of it, this Bill favours seed companies and facilitates ease of doing seeds business. We will study the draft Bill and make our position known to the government and the public."

Federation of Seed Industry of India chairman Ajai Rana said the release of the draft is a timely step toward modernising India's seed regulatory framework.

HC disqualifies Mukul Roy as MLA for switch from BJP to Trinamool

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday disqualified senior political leader Mukul Roy from membership of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly following his defection to the Trinamool Congress after winning the Assembly polls on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket over four years ago.

A Division Bench of Justice Debangsu Basak and Justice Md. Shabbar Rashidi said that given the facts and circumstances of the case, it has been established that Mr. Roy defected from the BJP to the Trinamool on June 11, 2021.

It held that such action has incurred the disqualification contemplated under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

Mukul Roy

Earlier this year, Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly and BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari had submitted a written response before the Calcutta High Court concerning the defection of BJP MLAs to the Trinamool Congress. "...Finally, the Constitution triumphed. I was the applicant as Leader of Opposition," he said on Thursday.

Barrier-less tolling systems: govt. to revisit bank-centric bidding model

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The government is exploring alternatives to bank-centric tendering for its new barrier-less tolling system, under which eight projects have been awarded out of a total target of 25 for the financial year 2025.

"We have given primacy to banks, which act as the primary bidder and the system integrator because they are a regulated entity. But this model is not scalable," a senior official of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said, adding that the government "will have to shift away from the model" after the first lot of 25 Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling systems are put in place.

Barrier-less tolling on national highways aims to reduce congestion at toll plazas – a problem that has not been addressed by the radio-frequency identification (RFID)-based FASTag system. The MLLF system will enable toll payments through reading of FASTags and Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) by high-performance RFID Readers and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras. The first project was awarded on August 30 to ICICI Bank for Choryasi fee plaza in Gujarat.

Barrier-less tolling on highways aims to reduce congestion at toll plazas, which has not been fixed by FASTag. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Public behaviour

The implementation of the new mechanism also relies on public behaviour and the likelihood of violations as there are no barriers that help in enforcing toll collection, said one NHAI official. In order to deter violators, the Ministry has proposed a draft amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, which for the first time defines "unpaid user fee".

The amendment also provides for withholding of several services, such as renewal of registration, transfer of ownership, issue of duplicate registration certificate, no-objection certificate, and even insurance issuance in case of an unpaid fee.

Another key pain point of road users is the increasing toll fees on highways for which the Ministry has approached NITI Aayog to examine the "principles" of tolling through an academic institution.

U.P. teacher suspended, booked for refusing to sing *Vande Mataram*

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

An assistant teacher at an Uttar Pradesh government school in Shahpur Kutub locality of Aligarh district was suspended after he allegedly refused to sing *Vande Mataram* and confronted another teacher over the issue.

The suspended teacher, Shamsul Hasan, has been booked under Sections 351 (2) (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace), and 292 (public nuisance) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Roravar police station in Aligarh following a complaint by assistant teacher, Chandrapal Singh.

"We received a petition against assistant teacher Shamsul Hasan for allegedly objecting to the singing of *Vande Mataram* and the chanting of *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* by students during morning assembly. In the petition, it has been alleged that the accused was involved in a verbal confrontation with another assistant teacher, Chandrapal Singh, over the singing of *Vande Mataram;* a complaint has been registered against the teacher under the relevant sections," said Mayank Pathak, Assistant Commissioner of Police.

The U.P. Basic Education Department said the teacher has been suspended.

A departmental investigation has been initiated based on the testimony of five teachers at the school, it further said.

INBRIEF

Eight killed, 14 injured in truck accident in Pune

At least eight persons were killed, and 14 others injured in an accident near Navale Bridge in Pune district in Maharashtra on Thursday. According to preliminary information from the Pune Police, 20 to 25 vehicles rammed one another in a chain collision around 5.30 p.m. A container truck is said to have set off the collision following which several vehicles caught fire. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for the families of those who died in the accident. "I pay my heartfelt tributes to the people who lost their lives in this incident. We share the grief of their families," Mr. Fadnavis said.

CISCE Class 10 exam from Feb. 17, Class 12 from Feb. 12

The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) board exams for Class 10 will begin from February 17 and those for Class 12 from February 12, officials said on Thursday. About 2.6 lakh candidates will appear for the ICSE (Class 10) examination while about 1.5 lakh candidates are set to take the ISC (Class 12) examination this year. "This year's examination schedule has been carefully crafted to ensure a balanced academic calendar, allowing candidates a reasonable preparation time between major subjects...," said Joseph Emannuel, chief executive and secretary, CISCE. PTI

India's carbon emission rise slower this year, says report

In 2024, the country's emissions grew by 4%, but a favourable monsoon, which cut demand for cooling, and a growth in renewable energy use, limited the rise to 1.4%, says Global Carbon Project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's 2025 carbon emissions have increased slowly compared to last year. While global carbon emissions are expected to rise to 38 billion tonnes, or by 1.1%, this year, the growth in India's emissions is expected to increase by 1.4%, according to the Global Carbon Project, an authoritative tracker of fossil fuel emissions. This is lower than in recent years – in 2024, India's emissions grew 4% than the previous year.

The slower increase was partly due to a favourable monsoon that reduced cooling demand, as well as a "strong growth in renewable energy", leading to lower coal use.

Global emission trends

China's emissions in 2025 are projected to increase by 0.4% – also a slower growth than in recent years. This was due to a "moderate growth in energy consumption combined with an extraordinary growth in renewable energy."

Keeping track: India is the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide at 3.2 billion tonnes annually. FILE PHOTO

Emissions are projected to grow in the United States (+1.9%) and the European Union (0.4%) in 2025.

Overall, India is the third largest emitter of carbon at 3.2 billion tonnes annually (2024), led by the U.S. (4.9 billion tonnes) and China (12 billion tonnes). India's per capita emission is 2.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, the second lowest among 20 of the largest economies globally. Coal is the major fuel type contributing to India's emissions.

The projected rise in global fossil CO2 emissions in 2025 is driven by all fuel types: coal +0.8%, oil +1%, natural gas +1.3%. Over the 2015-2024 period, emissions from permanent deforestation remained high around 4 billion tonnes of CO2 per year, while permanent removals through reafforestation and forest regrowth offsets about half of the permanent deforestation emissions.

Total CO2 emissions – the sum of fossil and land-use change emissions – have grown more slowly in the past decade (0.3% per year), compared to the previous decade (1.9% per year). The remaining carbon budget to limit global warming to 1.5°C is "virtually exhausted".

The remaining budget for 1.5°C is 170 billion tonnes of CO2, equivalent to four years at the 2025 emissions levels.

"With CO2 emissions still increasing, keeping global warming below 1.5°C is no longer plausible," said Professor Pierre Friedlingstein, of Exeter's Global Systems Institute, who led the study. "The remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C, 170 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, will be gone before 2030 at current emission rate. We estimate that climate change is now reducing the combined land and ocean sinks - a clear signal from Planet Earth that we need to dramatically reduce emissions."

The latest numbers come even as world leaders are gathered in Belem, Brazil, to attempt progress in transitioning away from fossil fuel use while also negotiating how to pay for the costs of bolstering defence against the effects of human-caused climate change already underway.

SC wants govt. to promote EVs amid high air pollution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid worsening air pollution in the national capital, the Supreme Court on Thursday observed that it may be high time to revisit the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 to promote electric vehicles and even launch a pilot project in metropolitan cities.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, advocate Prashant Bhushan, for NGO, Centre for Public Interest Litigation, urged that the government ought to give incentives to encourage consumers to shift to electric-powered vehicles. He pointed out that an electric vehicle was costlier than one run on fossil fuel. He said the government must lead the way by transitioning entirely to electric vehicles.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, for the Centre, said a complete shift to electric vehicles was a major policy decision. Justice Kant said five years have gone by since NEMMP 2020.

"Now, even the policy may have to be revisited. You could start a pilot project in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Madras (Chennai) or Bengaluru," Justice Kant mooted, listing the case after four weeks.

The court said that it is high time to revisit the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan.

The petitioner-NGO had sought the timely implementation of the Electric Vehicle Policy and Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles India scheme.

In a related development, Supreme Court judge Justice P.S. Narasimha, heading another Bench on Thursday, asked lawyers to appear virtually in court. Justice Narasimha advised lawyers to take into consideration the worsening pollution in the national capital and not appear physically in court.

Air India crash investigation aimed at finding cause, not apportioning blame, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday clarified that the ongoing investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into the Air India Flight 171 crash at the Ahmedabad airport, killing 12 crew members and 229 passengers on June 12, was not meant to "apportion blame" but to unearth "what" caused the accident, and to safeguard against future tragedies.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the government "understands the feelings" of the father of Commander Sumeet Sabharwal, one of the pilots on the aircraft.

Pushkarraj Sabharwal, represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, along with the Federation of Indian Pilots, had moved the top court seeking an independent and judicially monitored probe into the accident. His petition was triggered by "nasty" reportage about his son and rumours of pilot error.

The debris of the Air India aircraft that crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12.

His petition followed a preliminary report, published in the media, containing a verbal exchange between the two pilots, caught on the flight's black box. In this, one of them had reportedly asked about the fuel switch being cut off, while the other replied that he had not switched it off.

Ministry note

"There is no blame attributed to anyone. As a matter of fact, after the interim report, which had to be given mandatorily within a month of the accident according to international standards..., the Ministry of Civil Aviation had issued a press note," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Justice Bagchi said the purpose of the inquiry was not to assign blame. "The object of the probe is to clarify the cause and give recommendations so that such a situation does not arise again," he observed.

Unions slam labour policy for ignoring 'ground realities'

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Central Trade Unions (CTUs) of the country, except the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-backed Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), rejected the 'Shram Shakti Niti 2025', the draft labour policy of the Union government.

In a tripartite meeting chaired by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya here on Thursday, 10 CTUs and various federations said that the new labour policy appeared to be less a roadmap for worker empowerment, and more an ideological project to redefine labour, not as a right but as a "sacred duty."

The BMS's representative said it approved of the draft policy.

"Though the policy claims to uphold dignity, equality, and inclusion, its framework moves towards centralisation of authority, erosion of State powers, and moralisation of labour instead of recognising workers' rights. Its stated mission does not address the ground realities faced by the toiling masses. By invoking ancient caste-based hierarchies as moral precedents and by rebranding unimplemented labour codes as a new vision, the policy plans to turn back the clock on more than a century of workers' struggles for justice, fair wages, and social protection," the 10 CTUs said, urging the Centre to immediately convene the Indian Labour Conference to discuss the policy.

Labour is in the concurrent list of the Constitution, but the draft policy reduces the authority of State governments, the CTUs said.

SC reserves verdict on plea seeking damages for deaths 'linked' to COVID vaccines

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved for orders a petition seeking compensation for 'After Effects From Immunisation' (AEFI) deaths allegedly caused by COVID vaccination.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta heard the writ petition filed by Rachna Gangu and Venugopalan Govindan who alleged their daughters died due to adverse effects of COVID vaccination.

The court also considered a separate petition filed by the Centre against a Kerala High Court order to devise a policy to identify and compensate for AEFI deaths related to the vaccination.

Over 1,100 AEFI-linked deaths have been reported in the country.

Over 1,100 AEFI-linked deaths have been reported in the country. FILE PHOTO

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the parents, said the vaccine was forced upon the public, while the official version was that taking it was "voluntary". Suppression of information about the after-effects of the vaccine was institutionalised, he said. Mr. Gonsalves said healthy people, like the petitioners' daughters, developed brain clots after the vaccination and died.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for an intervenor, supported the plea for an independent probe into AEFI cases.

The Bench, asked Mr. Gonsalves about the source of his data showing the deaths were AEFI-related.

The court criticised the petitioners' assumption that the Centre covered up the actual number of AEFI deaths while countries such as the U.K. were transparent with the data. "You do not trust data given by your government, but trust the U.K. government," the court asked them.

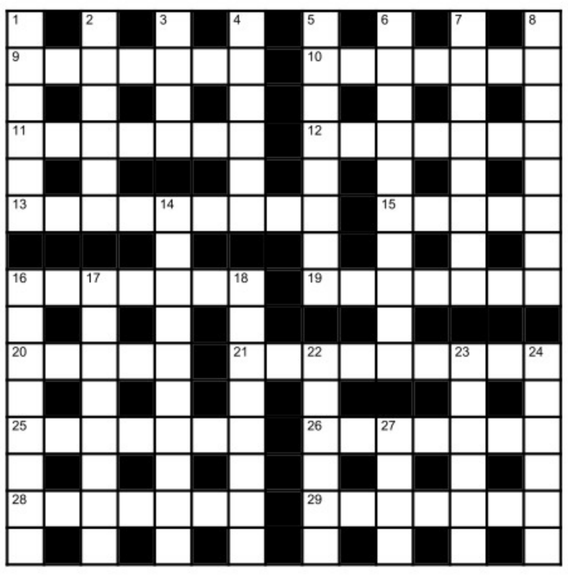
Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Centre, said the Centre cannot be held liable to pay compensation for deaths due to administration of COVID-19 vaccination.

TH CROSSWORD + 14639

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Crab cooked in West, say, is gruesome (7)
10 American keeps very quiet - in the manner of a Swedish town (7)
11 Partners in characteristic travel (7)
12 Option to include cold or frozen dessert (4-3)
13 Restricted dogs, exceeded limits (9)
15 Openers not out - together can handle score (5)
16 Vessel holding another is dusky (7)
19 Students receive help, those essentially down sick (4,3)
20 Assassin arrested again, in jail (5)
21 Discontinues after Alberto is regularly seen with a billionaire (9)
25 Gimmicks make gums get hard (7)
26 I belong otherwise to base (7)
28 Student lands in soup - criminal character (7)
29 Understanding home faculty (7)

Down

1 Evacuant to evacuate emporium - equipment inelastic (6)
2 Money church raised is sweet (6)
3 Peters' directions to keep books (4)
4 Pulse is fast, ideal at extremities (6)
5 Wine and rum calmed us (8)
6 Hiring a president - indicating support (10)
7 Grapes are vital in making wine (8)
8 TV programme on how to support Olympics, say (4,4)
14 Microscopic organism, not human - cryptic clue? (10)
16 Old monster sound - like rising in our surroundings (8)
17 Game for an amusement arcade, only strings going all around (8)
18 Part of circuit designed in haste, finally stuck (4,4)
22 Sun God is in 5 (6)
23 Caribbean island also gets the sack (6)
24 Gumshoe's criminal hustle (6)
27 Starts now - one should have food (4)

SUDOKU

1		9			4	5		
		2				8		
			3		8			9
4	5	8		9		6		
		3		5		1	8	4
3			5		7			
		5				9		
		4	2			3		1

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

P	L	I	N	T	H		B	R
O		M		O			O	
L	A	P	D	O	G		C	A
E		O		G		L		N
M	A	S	T	O	D	O	N	
I		T		O		O		L
S	P	E	E	D	O	F	L	I
T		R		T		A		G
			D	O	T	H	E	H
I		L		B		S		T
P	R	I	M	E	R		G	E
E		G		T		M		R
C	A	N	A	R	I	E	S	
A		I		U		S		
C	O	N	V	E	R	S	E	

I	G	H	T	O	N			
	O		R		E			
A	L	L	I	O	P	E		
	N		D		W		D	
	R	E	P	E	A	L		
	L		N		L		E	
	G	H	T					
	A		G		T			
O	U	R	S					
	D		N		U			
S	H	W	I	N				
	H		A		A			
	H	A	R	L	E	M		
	K		E		I			
S	E	P	S	I	S			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	5	3	7	4	2	1	9
3	9	1	2	5	8	6	4	7
7	2	4	1	9	6	5	3	8
5	8	7	4	6	1	9	2	3
1	3	2	9	8	7	4	5	6
6	4	9	5	3	2	7	8	1
4	7	3	8	2	9	1	6	5
9	1	8	6	4	5	3	7	2
2	5	6	7	1	3	8	9	4

FAITH

The last days of life

When Pareekshit learns that his days are numbered, he goes to the banks of the river Ganga, to meditate on Bhagavan. Many sages come to meet Pareekshit, including sage Suka. Pareekshit asks Suka how he should spend his last days, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. What mantras should he recite? Who should be meditated on? What are the things that should not be done? Pareekshit does have some *jnana*, but he wants to know more.

Suka tells Pareekshit that his queries about spirituality are excellent, because most people do not bother to ask these questions. People are so engrossed in their worldly lives, that they have no time to spare for such thoughts. Days are spent in making money and supporting the family, and nights are spent in sleep. While we witness the problems of the aged in our families, we think we are infallible. We never think that one day we too will age and encounter the same problems as our grandparents.

Suka tells Pareekshit that one should think of Lord Narayana always, and think of him at the time of death too (*ante narayana smritihi*). Suka says that he learnt Srimad Bhagavatam from his father, sage Vyasa. Bhagavata is Brahma sammitam, he says, for it tells of the Supreme One. Pareekshit deserves to hear the Bhagavatam, observes Suka.

The sage tells Pareekshit about a dharmic king called Khatvanga, who was told that he had only a *muhurtha* of life left. At once, he gave up everything and meditated on Vishnu. As for Pareekshit, he has just seven days left on earth. Suka tells him that he must give up all attachments, and spend his time in *dhyana*, focusing on Lord Narayana.

INBRIEF

Singapore Business Federation opens centre

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) on Thursday opened its fourth Singapore Enterprise Centre (SEC) in India, in Bengaluru, to help small enterprises in Singapore tap into India markets. The centre would offer advisory, networking, and business matching assistance for international expansion. India was Singapore's largest source of FDI for the seventh consecutive year. The centre aims to engage over 470 enterprises in the next two years through trade missions, seminars, and market programmes.

Ericsson opens new 5G R&D unit in Bengaluru

Ericsson, a multinational telecommunications company, opened a new R&D unit to drive 5G software development, in Bengaluru on Thursday. The unit would initially focus on developing 5G and 5G sdvanced features for the Ericsson 5G baseband. The work would be carried out in close collaboration with the company's global Radio Access Network (RAN) software teams, the Swedish company said, adding that the initiative was part of Ericsson's broader R&D expansion in India.

Centre junks quality control order on polyester fibre, yarn

The move is expected to benefit the Indian textile industry by making it easier to obtain raw materials at internationally competitive prices

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Smooth sail: The relaxation of the QCO will streamline the import of polyester and its raw materials. PERIASAMY M

The Centre has revoked the Quality Control Order (QCO) on polyester fibre and yarn, and PTA and MEG, which was introduced two years ago, bringing relief to the textile industry.

In an order dated November 12, 2025, the government said that based on powers conferred by Section 16 of Bureau of Indian Standards Act, it was revoking the orders of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers bringing in QCO on ethylene glycol, terephthalic acid, polyester spun, grey and white yarns, polyester continuous filament yarn, polyester partially oriented yarn, and polyester industrial yarn.

The government brought in QCOs on polyester yarn, filament, fibre, and raw materials PTA and MEG, thus restricting imports.

India has shortage of PTA and MEG and yet the government introduced QCOs. These are critical raw materials for the man-made fibre sector. The QCOs led to prices increasing by almost ₹4 a kg, said R.K. Vij, Secretary General of the Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association.

According to chairman of the Southern India Mills Association Durai Palanisamy, one of the long-pending needs of the industry has been addressed by the government. The QCOs increased the cost of polyester fibre and filament yarn by 30%. The relaxation of the QCO will streamline the import of polyester and its raw materials, ensuring an uninterrupted supply to spinners, weavers, and processors. Competitive imports are expected to stabilise domestic prices, he said.

ReNew Energy to invest ₹60,000 cr. in green energy in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

ReNew Energy Global Plc, a leading de-carbonisation solutions company, on Thursday announced that it would invest ₹60,000 crore ($6.7 billion) in Andhra Pradesh to set up multiple green energy projects in the State.

With this, the company's total investment in the State goes up to ₹82,000 crore ($9.3 billion).

In May this year, the company had committed to invest ₹22,000 crore (U.S. $2.5 billion) in the State to set up one of India's largest hybrid renewable energy projects.

In four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) entered into with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister N. Lokesh, the company announced its plan to invest in establishing a 6 GW PV ingot-wafer plant, a 2 GW pumped hydro project, a 300 KTPA green ammonia facility and 5 GW hybrid projects, including wind-solar and solar-BESS.

CEO Sumant Sinha exchanging the MoU in the presence of CM N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Naidu said, "This collaboration will accelerate clean energy deployment, attract high-quality jobs, and contribute meaningfully to sustainable and inclusive growth for the people of the State."

Sumant Sinha, founder-chairman and CEO of ReNew, said, "ReNew has a long-standing presence in A.P. and, with this expansion, we are bringing a fully integrated clean energy value chain to the State – from wafer to large-scale renewable projects and storage deployment."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,479	0.01
US Dollar	88.70	-0.09
Gold	1,30,900	2.34
Brent oil	63.15	0.78

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2488.20	3.70
Adani Ports	1499.00	-7.90
Apollo Hosp	7440.50	-57.50
Asian Paints	2879.40	109.60
Axis Bank	1225.20	3.60
Bajaj Auto	8867.50	-0.50
Bajaj Finserv	2056.20	20.70
Bajaj Finance	1005.40	-7.80
Bharat Elec	419.80	-4.95
Bharti Airtel	2091.80	18.00
Cipla	1525.80	6.50
Coal India	383.20	-3.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1234.90	5.30
Eicher Motors	6855.00	-24.00
Eternal Ltd.	297.75	-11.05
Grasim Ind	2777.80	10.40
HCL Tech	1598.50	4.50
HDFC Bank	986.65	-2.85
HDFC Life	782.20	-0.90
Hindalco	811.95	17.55
Hind Unilever	2407.60	-16.90
ICICI Bank	1385.90	27.00
IntGlobeAvi	5905.50	110.00
Infosys	1541.80	-9.90
ITC	405.70	-1.30
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	310.70	1.20
JSW Steel	1183.90	2.10
Kotak Bank	2075.20	-9.30
L&T	4002.50	47.90
M&M	3699.50	-54.80
Maruti Suzuki	15749.00	53.00
Max Healthcare	1098.00	-5.60
NestleIndia	1275.20	-3.00
NTPC	326.95	-0.20
ONGC	250.85	-3.00
PowerGrid Corp	269.85	2.75
Reliance Ind	1510.90	-0.60
SBI Life	1987.90	-8.80
State Bank	954.00	-3.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	814.00	-8.50
Sun Pharma	1737.40	5.30
TataConsumerProduct	1154.80	-7.20
Tata Steel	176.65	-1.96
TCS	3105.70	-26.10
Tech Mahindra	1451.40	-4.70
Titan	3839.20	-11.90
Tata Motors CV	320.75	-8.70
Tata Motors PV	397.95	-4.20
Trent Ltd.	4326.40	-49.40
UltraTech Cement	11934.00	13.00
Wipro	245.33	0.11

Star Air raises ₹150 cr. for fleet expansion

Jagriti Chandra
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-headquartered regional carrier Star Air said it has raised ₹150 crore in a Series B Round Fund for fleet expansion.

The funds were from a consortium of marquee investors including Micro Labs Ltd., Deepak Agarwal of Bikaji foods, and others.

The airline of the Sanjay Ghodawat Group plans to raise another ₹200 crore.

The funds will help the airline to grow its fleet, Star Air said in a press statement.

The airline plans to grow to a 50-aircraft fleet by 2030, according to its CEO Simran Singh Tiwana.

The airline today has nine aircraft.

Exporters welcome govt.'s ₹45,000 cr. export plan, but say more details, allocation needed

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) and the credit guarantee scheme for exporters (CGSE) approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday has been welcomed by exporter bodies and trade experts, but there is room for more to be done, and higher allocations to be made, some of them said. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the EPM, which had been initially announced in Budget 2025.

The total outlay of the Mission is ₹25,060 crore and will cover the period 2025-26 to 2030-31.

The CGSE aims to provide 100% credit guarantee coverage totaling ₹20,000 crore to lenders on loans they extend to eligible exporters, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Some trade experts, however, are not as sanguine about the Mission. "Despite its promise, the Mission faces several weaknesses," Ajay Srivastava, former Director General of Foreign Trade and founder of Global Trade Research Initiative said. "Although announced in February, EPM is still only a broad framework. It now needs to be translated into detailed schemes with precise guidelines specifying eligibility, processes, and disbursal rules." Mr. Srivastava said, this would mean it could take months before exporters see benefits.

Chhattisgarh ships copper concentrate to China

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh on Wednesday informed it had commenced the dispatch of India's largest ever copper concentrate consignment to China. The consignment containing 12,000 metric tons of copper concentrate was dispatched from the Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Nava Raipur with the first rake, carrying 2,200 metric tons, having left for Vishakhapatnam Port on Tuesday. Thereafter it would be shipped to China.

Reflecting on the development, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai stated, "The dispatch is not just a commercial event [but] a powerful stride towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat [self-reliant India]."

Mahindra, Manulife form 50:50 life insurance JV

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) and Manulife, a Canadian insurance firm, have entered into an agreement to establish a 50:50 life insurance joint venture. The total capital commitment from each shareholder is up to ₹3,600 crore ($400 million). It is expected that each shareholder would invest ₹1,250 crore ($140 million) in the first five years.

"Mahindra's brand strength, deep distribution capabilities in rural and semi-urban India, and execution excellence, make life insurance a logical extension towards our goal of building a comprehensive financial services portfolio. Manulife is the best natural partner for us given their global capabilities in insurance products, underwriting and reinsurance," said Anish Shah, Group CEO & MD, Mahindra Group. Phil Witherington, President and CEO, Manulife said, "Today marks an important milestone as we seek to enter one of the world's fastest growing insurance markets - India. This will further strengthen our diverse portfolio and positions us for tremendous growth in a mega economy of the future."

Anish Shah

Tata Motors reports net loss of ₹867 cr. in Q2 FY26

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. (formerly TML Commercial Vehicles Ltd.) which got listed on Wednesday after a demerger, for the second quarter FY26, reported a net loss of ₹867 crore on account of mark-to-market losses on the recently listed Tata Capital investments, the company said in a filing.

Consolidated revenue grew 6% YoY to ₹18,491 crore, and volumes grew 12% YoY. Girish Wagh, MD & CEO, Tata Motors Ltd. said, "Our financial results underscore a resilient performance, driven by a sound and agile business strategy."

Centre suspends over 4,000 fertiliser distributor licences on hoarding charges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

'All enforcement were executed under the Essential Commodities Act and the Fertiliser Control Order'

The Union Department of Fertilisers has cancelled or suspended 4,298 licences and the registration of fertiliser distributers for black marketing, hoarding and diversion of stocks.

The Ministry had earlier issued 8,777 show cause notices to the erring traders and 547 FIRs have so far been registered nationwide.

In a release, the Department said it conducted a comprehensive drive with the Union Agriculture Ministry to secure the national fertiliser supply chain.

"Working in close coordination with State Governments, effective enforcement action on an unprecedented scale including raids, inspections, and legal measures to curb black marketing, hoarding, and diversion of fertilisers has been taken by the district authorities. These proactive and strict steps taken by the State Governments ensured timely availability, reinforced market discipline, and upheld the integrity of fertiliser distribution across all regions of the country," the government said.

The Department said its officials conducted 3,17,054 inspections and raids.

All enforcement actions were executed under the Essential Commodities Act and the Fertiliser Control Order," the Centre added.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SAWAI MADHOPUR
S.No./M.C.S.M./Nirman/25/ 10200 Date :06/11/2025
Notice Inviting Bid
Short term Bids for different works Nit No.125/2025-26 of Municipal Council Sawai Madhopur are invited from interested bidders upto date 17–11-2025 on 11:00 Hours. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state govt.
UBN No.– DLB2526SLRC23528
Raj.Samwad/C/25/13661
Commissioner,
Municipal Council Sawai Madhopur

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprises)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GACHIBOWLI, HYDERABAD 500 032
Ref:BDL/CC/OT/GT/011/2025-26 Dt: 14.11.2025
e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding

Sl.NO	Tender ID	Description	Estimate in Rs
1	66639	Facility Management Services in Township-BDL Bhanur	91.01 Lakhs

Please visit website **https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com**, **select online tenders on dashboard** for further details. Bids should be submitted online only. **"corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"**
*Bidders are Requested to apply for online Vendor Registration in BDL website **https://bdl-india.in/registration-contractors** prospects.
ADDITIONAL GENERAL MANAGER (Corp Comml)

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय सदस्य सचिव, राजस्थान मेडिकेयर रिलिफ सोसायटी एवं कार्यालय चिकित्सा अधीक्षक, महात्मा गाँधी अस्पताल भीलवाड़ा (राज.)
क्रमांक- रामेरिसो/ भण्डार/ 2025-26/ 5906 दिनांक- 06.11.2025
निम्नांकित सामग्री/ सेवाओं के उपापन के लिए इच्छुक पंजीकृत बोलीदाताओं से उनके नाम के सम्मुख अंकित तिथि व समय तक निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली के अन्य विवरण राज्य के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) और विभागीय वेबसाइट पर देखे जा सकते है-

क्र. सं.	निविदा सूचना संख्या	उपापन का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	NIB Code/ Reference No.	UBN No.	निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय प्रारम्भ दिनांक व समय	निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय
1	33	Upgradation With essential Equipments on turnkey basis and renovation of wards at M.G. Hospital	05.00 करोड	MHS2526 A3347/ 5906	MHS2526 WSRC 04872	17.11.2025 को प्रातः 10 बजे से।	08.12.2025 को सायं 05 बजे तक।

DIPR/C/16452/25
(डॉ अरुण गौड़) सदस्य सचिव,
रा.मे.रि.सो. एवं चिकित्सा अधीक्षक, भीलवाड़ा

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)
BESCOM invites tenders against **Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/SE0363 to BESCOM/2025-26/SE0375 And BESCOM/2025-26/SE0377 to BESCOM/2025-26/SE0385** for "Setting up EV charging stations at Government Owned Premises in 22 districts of Karnataka under PPP Model".
Issue of Bid Documents : From 18.11.2025 @ 11:00 am Onwards
The Bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPP portal helpdesk at 9240214000, 9240214001.
For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Sd/-
General Manager (Ele.), DSM, BESCOM

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email : drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in
Bid Ref.No.:OSMCL/2025-26/DRUGS-DHS-ACD-RE-TENDER/07 Date:12/11/2025
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **supply of Anti-Cancer Drugs (Re-Tender) for the year 2025-26 as per the particulars mentioned below:**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	12/11/2025, 3.00 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail to id - drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in	15/11/2025, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		18/11/2025, 3.00 PM	08/12/2025, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		09/12/2025, 10.00AM	16/12/2025,11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	16/12/2025, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notices will be published in the OSMCL website **www.osmcl.nic.in**. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website **www.osmcl.nic.in** time to time for any published notice against the tender.
CAD-2273 :
Sd/-
Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar - 751001
HE-SCH-PLAN-0059-2025/61316/H.E., Bhubaneswar, Dated: 12/11/2025
Corrigendum-1
NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATE PSU/ CENTRAL PSU/ DEPARTMENTAL UNDERTAKING AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) FOR "CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR/ RENOVATION ACROSS FIVE STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, ODISHA UNDER PM USHA
RFP No. PM-USHA:01/2025 Date: 09.10.2025

Sl. No.	RFP Cl.No.	Page No.	Description as per RFP	Modified Provisions
1.	15.e	19	The Agency shall submit an irrevocable Performance Guarantee/Security of 5% (Five Percent) of the total contract value for proper performance and due fulfilment of the terms and conditions of the contract within 30 days from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance by the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha. The guarantee shall be in the form of Account Payee Demand Draft, Bank Guarantee including e-Bank Guarantee or Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDR) and will be released after the project completed and handed over.	The Agency shall submit an irrevocable Performance Guarantee/Security of **3% (Three Percent)** of the total contract value for proper performance and due fulfilment of the terms and conditions of the contract within 30 days from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance by the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha. The guarantee shall be in the form of Account Payee Demand Draft, Bank Guarantee including e-Bank Guarantee or Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDR) and will be released after the project completed and handed over.
2.	12	17	The RFP mentions that the Least cost System (LCS) will be followed during the overall process	The Quality and Cost Based Selection **(QCBS)** methodology will be adopted for evaluation, with Technical-to-Financial weightage of **70:30.**
3.	(i) Address for submission of tender/proposal (ii) Data Sheet (iii) Annexure-I	1 4&5 27	Pin Code : 750001	**Pin Code : 751001**

N-195
Special Secretary to Govt. & SPD, RUSA/PM-USHA

NEW YORK

‘No genocide’ in Nigeria’s troubled north, says African Union chief

REUTERS

The African Union chief Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, during a press conference on Wednesday in New York, dismissed claims of genocide in northern Nigeria after U.S. President Trump alleged that Christians were being killed by jihadists and faced an “existential threat”. He added that Boko Haram’s main victims are Muslims. AFP

KYIV

Zelenskyy sanctions associate as fraud scandal rocks Ukraine

AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday imposed sanctions on ex-business partner Timur Mindich amid a $100 million corruption scandal. Authorities froze assets, revoked state awards, and imposed travel restrictions on Mr. Mindich and another businessman, Oleksandr Tsukermann. AFP

LONDON

U.K. to build its first mini nuclear power station in north Wales

AFP

Britain selected North Wales for its first small nuclear power station on Thursday, angering the United States which had wanted a large, U.S.-led plant built there as part of its greater involvement in the U.K.’s energy sector. A spokesperson for British PM Keir Starmer said Wylfa was the best site for small modular reactors. REUTERS

DUBAI

U.S., UAE arms companies to co-develop AI-driven drones

U.S. defence firm Anduril and UAE’s EDGE Group will co-develop the AI-powered Omen drone in Abu Dhabi, enhancing defence ties. The UAE will buy the first 50 units, officials said. The helicopter-plane hybrid drone suits military and disaster missions. EDGE invests $200 million while Anduril contributes $850 million into Omen. AFP

Pakistan grants immunity to President, Army Chief

Under the amendment, any officer promoted to field marshal, marshal of the Air Force or admiral of the fleet will retain rank for life, remain in uniform, enjoy immunity from criminal proceedings

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Power point: Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, ex-PM Nawaz Sharif attend a Parliament session in Islamabad on Wednesday. AFP

Pakistan’s Parliament approved a sweeping constitutional amendment on Thursday granting lifetime immunity to the President as well as the current Army Chief, a move critics warned would erode democratic checks and judicial independence. The 27th amendment, passed by a two-thirds majority, also consolidates military power under a new Chief of Defence Forces role and establishes a Federal Constitutional Court.

The changes grant Army Chief Asim Munir, promoted to field marshal after Pakistan’s clash with India in May, command over the Army, Air Force and the Navy. He and other top military brass will enjoy lifelong protections.

Under the amendment, any officer promoted to field marshal, marshal of the Air Force, or admiral of the fleet will now retain rank and privileges for life, remain in uniform, and enjoy immunity from criminal proceedings.

Such protections were previously only reserved for the head of state.

“This constitutional amendment will increase authoritarianism and whatever little semblance of democracy existed in this country will fade away,” said Osama Malik, an Islamabad-based lawyer. “It will not only remove civilian oversight from the military’s activities, it will also completely destroy the military hierarchy where all service chiefs were considered equal under the joint chief system,” he added.

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of more than 250 million people, has long struggled to balance civilian authority with the military’s role in politics. The amendment also shields President Asif Ali Zardari from any criminal prosecution, although that immunity will not apply if he or any other former president later holds another public office.

Corruption cases

Mr. Zardari has faced multiple graft cases, although proceedings were previously stayed. He signed the Bill into law following the parliamentary vote.

Opposition parties, led by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), tore up copies of the Bill in both chambers over the past few days. The amendment also bars courts from questioning any constitutional change “on any ground whatsoever”. The Bill also creates a Federal Constitutional Court with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional cases, stripping the Supreme Court of its original powers.

Another clause empowers the President to transfer High Court judges on the recommendation of the Judicial Commission, a change critics say could be used to sideline dissenting judges.

“This is the final nail in the coffin of an independent judiciary and a functioning democracy,” PTI spokesman Sayed Zulfiqar Bukhari said.

The Senate initially passed the Bill on Monday. It was then tweaked and passed by the National Assembly, the lower house, two days later before returning to the upper house for final approval.

“Sixty-four members are in favour of the passage of the Bill and four members are against, so the motion is carried,” Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Thursday.

It also cleared the 336-member lower house with the required two-thirds majority.

Pak. Minister says Afghans carried out suicide blasts

Reuters
ISLAMABAD

Afghan nationals carried out two suicide bombings in Pakistan this week, including one in the capital Islamabad, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday, amid sharpening tensions between the South Asian neighbours over militant violence.

Both the bombers involved in the attacks have been identified as Afghans, he told Parliament in a session carried live on television.

“It is our major, serious concern,” Mr. Naqvi said, adding that Pakistani authorities had taken up the issue of security with the Taliban in Kabul.

There was no immediate response from Kabul.

Israel kills 2 Palestinians; settlers set mosque ablaze

Agence France-Presse
DAYR ISTIYA

A Palestinian man inspects burned property in a mosque, following an attack by Israeli settlers in Deir Istiya on Thursday. REUTERS

The Israeli military said its troops killed two suspected militants in a town in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, while Palestinian officials accused Israeli settlers of setting fire to a mosque in the territory.

Settler violence has surged in recent weeks across the West Bank, drawing international condemnation and even rare criticism from within the Israeli military and government.

“A short while ago, IDF soldiers who were operating adjacent to the community of Karmei Zur, eliminated two terrorists who were on their way to carry out a terror attack,” the military said in a statement, without providing details.

Palestinian authorities also did not provide any details.

Meanwhile, the Ramallah-based Palestinian Foreign Ministry said Israeli settlers set ablaze the Hajja Hamida mosque near the town of Deir Istiya in the north.

“This blatantly violates the sanctity of places of worship and reflects the deep-rooted racism driving settlers under the protection of the occupying government,” the Ministry said.

Thursday’s arson attack came a day after Israeli army chief pledged to halt settler violence, following a wave of attacks targeting Palestinians in the West Bank.

China urges Japan PM to retract ‘egregious’ remarks

Reuters
BEIJING

China’s Foreign Ministry on Thursday demanded Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi retract what it called her “egregious” remarks related to Taiwan, warning that otherwise Japan “must bear all consequences” for the comments.

Ms. Takaichi sparked a diplomatic row with Beijing with remarks in Parliament that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could amount to a “survival-threatening situation” and trigger a potential military response from Tokyo.

MSME- TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
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Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra- 282006 (U.P)

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Start Date:	Time:	Fees:
17th - 21st Nov 2025	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Rs. 4,130/-

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Bangladesh to hold a referendum on reform plans: Yunus

Reuters
DHAKA

Muhammad Yunus

Bangladesh will hold a national referendum on implementing its ‘July Charter’ for state reform, drafted after last year’s deadly student-led uprising, Muhammad Yunus, the head of the country’s interim government, said on Thursday.

He also reiterated that parliamentary elections will be held in the first half of February and that they would be free and fair.

The interim government approved the July National Charter (Constitution Reform) Implementation Order 2025 on Thursday and it will be implemented depending on the outcome of the referendum.

Efficient process

“We have decided that the referendum will be held on the same day as the national parliamentary election – meaning, in the first half of February,” Mr. Yunus said in a televised address to the nation.

“This will not hinder the reform process. Rather, it will make the election more festive and cost-efficient,” he said.

The July Charter seeks to reshape the country’s politics and institutions and give constitutional recognition to the 2024 uprising that forced Sheikh Hasina, a long-time prime minister, to flee to India.

It includes increased representation of women, limiting the Prime Minister’s term, strengthening presidential powers, expanding fundamental rights and ensuring judicial independence.

A majority of political parties had signed the charter in October but the National Citizens Party had boycotted it.

The NCP said it stayed away due to the lack of a legal framework or binding guarantee for implementing the commitments made in the charter.

‘Syria to help the U.S. fight Iran-backed armed groups’

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Syria will play an active role in assisting the United States in fighting armed groups including Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, Hamas and Hezbollah, U.S. special envoy Tom Barrack said on Thursday.

Islamist interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa, himself a former jihadist, became the first Syrian leader to visit the White House since his country’s Independence in 1946.

Shortly after his visit, the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group (IS) announced that Syria had become its 90th member.

On Thursday, Mr. Barrack wrote on X that “Damascus will now actively assist us in confronting and dismantling the remnants of ISIS, the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps), Hamas, Hizballah, and other terrorist networks”.

Iran’s powerful IRGC and Lebanon’s Hezbollah were key backers of President Bashar al-Assad before he was ousted last December by a rebel coalition led by Mr. Sharaa.

GOVT.OF AP, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR STUDY CIRCLE, VIJAYAWADA
TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)
“Inviting bids (RFP) from UPSC coaching institutes to provide Free residential coaching for UPSC Civil Services (Prelims)-2026 at AP Study Circle centers, Vijayawada, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam.”
- Starts on 10/12/2025 for **4 months duration (Total 340 Students)**
- **Three Separate Bids** (one per each location) / **EMD: 75,000/-**
- Tender issue: 13-11-2025/Pre-bid meeting: 18-11-2025 /
- Last date for submission: 26-11-2025 (Before 5:00 PM)/ Tender opening: 27-11-2025 (11:00 AM)
- Bid Submission Address: Director, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study Circle, D.No. 28-1-12, Arundalpet, Vijayawada-520002
- Documents available at office (10 AM-5 PM) or at: **https://apstudycircle.apcfss.in**, Queries: 9493343866/Email: **apstudycircleoffice@gmail.com**

DIRECTOR (FAC), DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR AP STUDY CIRCLE, VIJAYAWADA

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त टोंक
क्रमांक: 2268-76 दिनांक :- 07.11.2025
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या: 01/2025-26
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर परिवर्तित बजट वर्ष 2025-26 की घोषणा के अन्तर्गत संभाग टोंक के अधीन वृत टोंक के 1 सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु श्रीमान् मुख्य अभियन्ता एवं अति. सचिव सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान, जयपुर के राजकाज पत्र क्रमांक 12921520 दिनांक 28.03.2025 के अनुसार संधारण की अवधि लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों में पंजीकृत 'एए" "ए" एवं "बी" श्रेणी तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 1 निर्माण कार्य हेतु जिनकी कुल राशि 1985.76 लाख है, प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बधित विवरण वेब साईट **http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यवार UBN संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
NIB Code **PWD2526A4232**
UBN No **PWD2526WLOB16475**
(एच.एल. मीना)
अधीक्षण अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. वृत टोंक
DIPR/C/16564/2025

कार्यालय नगर परिषद, सवाई माधोपुर-राज.
क्रमांक / न.प.स.मा. / निर्माण / 25–26 / 10399 दिनांक :–10.11.2025
निविदा संशोधन सूचना – 2
(E NIT No.- 122/2025&26)
नगर परिषद सवाई माधोपुर के पत्रांक 10062 दिनांक 31.10.2025 से जारी ऑनलाईन निविदा संख्या 122 / 2025–26 में निविदा संशोधन सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं होने के कारण निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :–

विवरण	संशोधित दिनांक
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड / अपलोड जमा करने की अन्तिम दिनांक	13.11.2025 प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक
भौतिक रूप से / मेल आईडी पर रसीद जमा कराने की दिनांक	14.11.2021 प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	14.11.2021 दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक

Clarification: - In the Tender documents under Section 3 Evaluation and Qualification criteria, point 2 Historical Performance; Minimum annual construction Turnover will be replacing as Minimum average annual construction Turnover in the last 03 years (2022-23 to 2024- 25) which must be equal to or more than 60 percent of work amount in NIT.
UBN No. – DLB2526WLOB23102
आयुक्त
नगर परिषद, सवाई माधोपुर
राज.संवाद / सी / 25 / 13645

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATE EXAMINATION (FMGE) – DECEMBER 2025

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the **FMGE – December 2025** on **17th January 2026.**

Applications are being invited from **14th November 2025 (03:00PM Onwards) to 04th December 2025 (Till 11:55 PM)** at NBEMS website:
https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=fmge

Candidate Care Support : +91-7996165333
- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Bids are invited under single stage two part system for the following tender:

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-34/2025-26	Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of High Temperature Low Sag (HTLS) Conductor after dismantling of ACSR Zebra Conductor in existing 220kV Budhipadar-Lapanga DC line from LOC. No-1 to 63 on turnkey contract basis in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 32,27,47,128/-
CPC-35/2025-26	Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of High Temperature Low Sag (HTLS) Conductor after dismantling of ACSR Zebra Conductor in existing 220kV Lapanga-Katapali DC line from LOC. No-1 to 201 on turnkey contract basis in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 82,08,11,179/-

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.optcl.co.in**.
CAD-2285 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha **HIPR-43/2025-26**

ART OF BALANCING

When I'm batting, I think only as a batter: Gill on dual responsibility

K.R. DEEPAK

"I like my instincts to take over while captaining," Gill said ahead of the opening Test against South Africa. "It's a conscious effort that when I'm batting, I think only as a batsman, not as a captain. If you overthink as a captain, you put too much pressure on yourself. That's how I balance my captaincy and batting."

THE REASON

Circumstances, not quality, led to non-selection of Shami: Gill

K.R. DEEPAK

Shubman Gill felt that circumstances, and not bowling quality, have led to the non-selection of pacer Mohammed Shami. "A bowler of his quality… there aren't that many [around]. But you also have to take into consideration the performances of someone like Akash Deep, *in pic,* or Prasidh [Krishna]."

SELF-ASSURED

I became comfortable in my own skin, says skipper Bavuma

K.R. DEEPAK

Temba Bavuma said that in the last two years he had grown as a leader. "I'm a lot more comfortable in my own skin. There's no case of wanting to prove to myself, to the players, or to people back home that I'm deserving of the titles. The results we've achieved and the type of reaction I get from the players… they speak."

REALITY CHECK

Lot more expectations from us: Bavuma on the series against India

K.R. DEEPAK

Temba Bavuma termed the Test series versus India as a near-referendum on South Africa's status as World Test Champion. "Whenever we go into a series, there's a lot more expectation from us to uphold that status. We have an opportunity now against India in their own conditions for us to stamp ourselves with that label."

A series oozing with much context and meaning

India takes the field having drawn a series in England and blanking the West Indies at home; South Africa comes into the contest on the back of a creditable stalemate in spin-heavy Pakistan

SA IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

It's fascinating how the two-match Test series between India and South Africa, which begins here on Friday, represents the toughest test each team has had in recent times.

Shubman Gill & Co. may have drawn the away series in England 2-2 and blanked the West Indies 2-0 at home last month, but the scars from last year's 3-0 thrashing at the hands of New Zealand haven't fully gone away. Every step it takes and every move it makes will be scrutinised, like how every line that a celebrated novelist writes is parsed for content.

Tough challenge

Temba Bavuma's men, on the other hand, have their newly acquired status of the World Test Champions to live up to. They overcame Australia in the final in emphatic fashion, but beating India in India is a feat that has proved beyond most.

The Proteas, in fact, have lost six of their previous seven Tests in India, the exception being the rain-hit affair in Bengaluru in November 2015 which ended in a draw.

It is perhaps fitting that a series oozing so much context and meaning will have its first roll of the dice at the Eden Gardens, the grandest of the sub-continent's Test centres, both in name and vibe. The celebrated venue will be hosting its first five-day international since the pink-ball extravaganza in November 2019.

South Africa comes into the contest on the back of a creditable 1-1 draw in spin-heavy Pakistan. It has a capable bowling attack – at least on paper – to challenge India.

Aside from Keshav Maharaj, among the foremost finger-spinners in the world, Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen are first-rate pacers who may find the Eastern metropolis' early winter conditions helpful.

In fairness, Kolkata is no paradise for the faster bowlers. But it has been hospitable in the past, and can be compared to a fiction-writer's muse, giving not a lot but just about enough to help script a gripping story.

With India hinting at moving away from the raging turners it has tended to produce in recent years, both speedsters and tweakers are expected to play important roles.

The home outfit too has the personnel to cover all bases. Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah are likely to lead the attack, and in the spin department, there is an embarrassment of riches with Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel in the mix.

Following Rishabh Pant's comeback, the Indian batting has regained its complete strength. And with the in-form Dhruv Jurel set to feature as a specialist batter, there will be a steely veneer.

Likewise for South Africa, the re-entry of leader Bavuma into the XI after a two-month injury layoff will act as a significant reinforcement.

In a sense, the match can be an inflection point for Bavuma.

The symbolism of the Rainbow Nation's first Black African captain leading his side out at the same ground where post-Apartheid South Africa returned to international cricket in 1991 after a 21-year hiatus is hard to miss.

It was also at the same ground that Bavuma & Co. agonisingly lost the 2023 World Cup semifinal to Australia, with the ailing skipper making a four-ball duck and copping much criticism. A rousing performance can help life come full circle.

The teams (from): India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, B. Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep and Kuldeep Yadav.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Tony de Zorzi, Zubayr Hamza, Simon Harmer, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickleton (wk), Tristan Stubbs and Kyle Verreynne (wk).

Match starts at 9.30 a.m. IST.

Sparks set to fly

An enthralling battle beckons as India, a finalist in the first two editions of the WTC, takes on reigning champion South Africa in a two-Test joust.

INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA H2H IN TESTS

Overall	Played 44	India 16	South Africa 18	Drawn 10
In India	Played 19	India 11	South Africa 5	Drawn 3

FREEDOM TROPHY

The India-South Africa Test series is being played for the Freedom Trophy since 2015-16

Season	Host	Result
2015-16	India	India won 3-0 (4)
2017-18	South Africa	South Africa 2-1 (3)
2019-20	India	India 3-0 (3)
2021-22	South Africa	South Africa 2-1 (3)
2023-24	South Africa	Drawn 1-1 (2)

H2H IN FREEDOM TROPHY

Tests	India	South Africa	Drawn
15	9	5	1

INDIA'S VICTORIES

Year	Margin	Venue
2015	108 runs	Mohali
2015	124 runs	Nagpur
2015	337 runs	Delhi
2018	63 runs	Johannesburg
2019	203 runs	Visakhapatnam
2019	Inns & 137 runs	Pune
2019	Inns & 202 runs	Ranchi
2021	113 runs	Centurion
2024	7 wickets	Cape Town

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

Sizzling run: India will look to continue its domination against South Africa at home. K.R. DEEPAK

TOP OF THE FREEDOM TROPHY CHARTS

For India

Most runs **Kohli** (**1136,** 24 inns)

Most wickets **Ashwin** (**57,** 24 inns)

For South Africa

Most runs **Elgar** (**1012,** 28 inns)

Most wickets **Rabada** (**55,** 25 inns)

THE SCHEDULE **Nov. 14-18:** Kolkata | **Nov. 22-26:** Guwahati

Compiled by R. Narayanan and G. Prasad

Difficult to decide who to play: Gill

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

India skipper Shubman Gill expressed confidence that his side will cope with the challenge of tackling World Test Championship holder South Africa rather well.

"These two Test matches are very important for us to play the WTC final [in 2027] and South Africa is a very good team," Gill said on Thursday, on the eve of the series-opener at Eden Gardens.

"So, we know that it won't be easy and there will be difficult moments. But as a team we have shown that whenever there are difficult moments, we have handled them very well."

Gill was understandably buoyed by the choices he had, especially in the spin-bowling department, but was all along mindful of the selection headache it may produce.

"It is very difficult to decide who you want to play," he stated.

"But this problem is always better, that you have more options. The quality that we have in this team, I consider myself very fortunate."

Gill felt that the variety that Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel bring, in terms of angles and pace, gives India an advantage.

"Unless you are playing on a red-soil wicket, the pace is a little bit slower off the wicket. So if your bowlers are bowling at a quicker pace, it gives the batsmen a little bit less time to adjust," the 26-year-old opined.

"The balls that are not turning become more dangerous, because they come at a much-faster speed. So definitely that's an advantage.

"And whenever we play in India, more or less the spinners decide the game. The better your spin attack, the better chances you have."

This is our festive season: Bavuma

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma said that the World Test Championship win this June has changed his nation's cricket profoundly. "There's been a lot more appreciation and love that's been shown towards the team, the individuals within and also for my presence," Bavuma said on Thursday.

"For us, some of the older guys who have been at ICC events and come up short, it has brought a bit of relief but also a stronger belief that if you keep pushing, things are bound to happen. So confidence is probably the biggest word back home."

It will be a pity that South Africa will not host the traditional Boxing Day and New Year's Tests this season, depriving its fans of an opportunity to celebrate the team. That slot is now SA20's, Cricket South Africa's flagship T20 competition.

"It's obviously quite sad for us players and fans. But this Test series [versus India] becomes our festive season. We'll try and make the most of it.

"I think it is quite positive that we'll be playing 14 Tests [in 2025-27], a little bit more than the last Test cycle. We're still trying for a little bit more Tests. We'd love to play against teams like India, England and Australia. Maybe not just two but three Tests. [But] at this point, we'll take what we have."

While the WTC win will be acme, the 35-year-old stated that a series win in India for the first time since March 2000 can come a close second. "It's something that we haven't been able to do for a long time. So that's definitely up there in terms of ambition. And I think over the next two weeks, that's what we'll be pushing towards".

Swinging away: Ruturaj hit 12 fours in his century. VIJAY SONEJI

Ruturaj roars, India-A wins first one-dayer

Sahil Mathur
RAJKOT

Ruturaj Gaikwad blended poise with precision, crafting a sublime 117 that powered India-A to a four-wicket win over South Africa-A in the first one-dayer at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here on Thursday.

Ruturaj struck a dozen fours before he was dismissed when 68 were needed for victory. However, Nitish Kumar (37) and Nishant Sindhu (29 not out) took the side home.

Chasing 286, India-A began briskly through openers Ruturaj and Abhishek Sharma, who added 64. Ruturaj and skipper Tilak Varma put on 89 for the third wicket before Tilak, after a scratchy 39, fell to a top-edged pull. Ruturaj, however, completed his century off 118 balls.

Earlier, the visitors recovered from 16 for four to post 285 for nine.

The scores: South Africa-A 285/9 in 50 overs (Dian Forrester 77, Delano Potgieter 90, Bjorn Fortuin 59) lost to India-A 290/6 in 49.3 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 117). **Toss:** SA-A; **PoM:** Ruturaj.

Dubov ousts Pragg; Arjun and Harikrishna in last 16

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

A runner-up in the last edition, R. Praggnanandhaa began as one of the favourites at the Chess World Cup. He had some fabulous results this year too, but not on Thursday.

The third seed from Chennai was knocked out in the fourth round by Russia's Daniil Dubov at Resort Rio. After settling for a 12-move draw in the first tie-breaker game, Praggnanandhaa lost with white pieces in the second, when he needed at least a draw.

Praggnanandhaa wasn't the only big seed to fall on this day. Nor was Dubov the only Russian to prevail. Sixth seed Vincent Keymer of Germany and the 11th-seeded Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave were ousted by Andrey Esipenko and Aleksey Grebnev, respectively.

Sealing it: Dubov stunned the third seed with black pieces. FIDE

Arjun, who needs to finish inside the top three here in order to secure a place in the Candidates, won both his games against his much-experienced Hungarian opponent Peter Leko.

Harikrishna booked his ticket for the fifth round from the first set of tie-breaks. After drawing the opening game, he won the second in 34 moves.

The results: Fourth round (tie-breaks): Arjun Erigaisi bt Peter Leko (Hun) 2-0; P. Harikrishna bt Nils Grandelius (Swe) 1.5-0.5; Frederik Svane (Ger) bt Shant Sargsyan (Arm) 1.5-0.5; Andrey Esipenko (Rus) bt Vincent Keymer (Ger) 1-1, 2-0; Sam Shankland (USA) bt Richard Rapport (Hun) 2-0; Aleksey Grebnev (Rus) bt Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 1.5-0.5; Daniil Dubov (Rus) bt R. Praggnanandhaa 1.5-0.5; Gabriel Sargissian (Arm) 1 drew with Awonder Liang (USA) 1; Wei Yi (Chn) bt Parham Maghsoodloo (Ira) 1-1, 1-1, 2-0; Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) bt Yu Yangyi (Chn) 1.5-0.5; (Uzb); Samuel Sevian (USA) bt Lorenzo Lodici (Ita) 1-1, 1-1, 2-0.

Another chance for India to break new ground

BJK CUP

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

India took a giant leap in the 2020-21 Billie Jean King Cup when it made a maiden sojourn to the playoff round. Latvia, led by Grand Slam champion Jelena Ostapenko and top-50 player Anastasija Sevastova, put an end to the dream run.

India now has another chance to break new ground, with the latest edition of the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs commencing at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Friday.

The Indians – likely to field Sahaja Yamalapalli (World No. 309) and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty (381) in singles – have a mountain to climb if they are to top the group and advance to the next stage.

Two powerful rivals, Slovenia and Netherlands, stand in the way. Slovenia counts on 2021 French Open semifinalist Tamara Zidansek and Kaja Juvan (World No. 98), while Netherlands looks to Suzan Lamens (World No. 87) and the experienced Arantxa Rus (a former top-50 player) to get the job done.

The Indians, however, have had a few big scalps in recent times. Only last month, Sahaja upset 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens in straight sets at the WTA 125K Abierto Tampico in Mexico. Shrivalli, meanwhile, consistently outplayed higher-ranked opponents en route five straight wins in the previous round of the Billie Jean King Cup.

Ankita Raina, likely to play doubles alongside Prarthana Thombare, is not one to back down from a fight. "My best results have come when I have played for the country," Ankita said. Team captain Vishal Uppal appealed to the fans to "support the team" and "perhaps get under the skin of the opponents." The Netherlands meets Slovenia on Friday. India will play during the weekend.

Geared up: The Indian team will hope to make it a memorable weekend. K. MURALI KUMAR

INBRIEF

Anupama pots her maiden World snooker (15-red) title

India's Anupama Ramachandran edged out three-time champion Ng On Yee of Hong Kong 51-74, 65-41, 10-71, 78-20, 68-60 to become the first Indian woman to clinch the IBSF World snooker (15-red) title, in Doha on Thursday. Anupama beat compatriot Keerthana Pandian 65-46, 78 (36)-30, 16-70, 57-9 in the semifinals.

Watson appointed assistant coach of Knight Riders

Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday announced the appointment of former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson as its assistant coach for the 2026 edition of the Indian Premier League.

Lakshya in quarters, Prannoy bows out in Japan Masters

Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarterfinals with a 21-13, 21-11 win over Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh in the men's singles competition of Kumamoto Masters Japan on Thursday. However, H.S. Prannoy lost 18-21, 15-21 to Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in a 46-minute second-round match.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Asia Cup Rising Stars: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 12 p.m.;

India-A vs UAE-A: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 p.m.

Chess: World Cup, FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.

Football: European WC Qualifiers, Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 10.30 p.m. ; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

'A lot of positive changes have already happened'

Harmanpreet recalls the crucial partnership with Jemimah where the two complemented each other and the significance of the World Cup win that has inspired young girls to pick up the sport

CRICKET

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

On April 2, 2011, Dhoni's Dazzlers gave the cricket-crazy nation a night to remember, lifting the World Cup and ending a 28-year wait. Fourteen years and seven months later – November 2, 2025 – another glorious chapter was written.

Harmanpreet's Hurricanes provided another moment of boundless joy as they emerged the ICC World Champions for the first time.

The women's World Cup-winning skipper landed in Chennai on Thursday for felicitation functions hosted by Velammal Nexus and Sathyabama University.

She recalled the sensational semifinal – a record-breaking chase (target 338) that dethroned the Aussies – and the emotions of leading the Women in Blue to the pinnacle.

"We knew how strong Australia was and were prepared for a tough fight. The situation was very difficult when I went in, but I was determined to take responsibility and remain calm.

"The partnership with Jemimah (Rodrigues) was really crucial. She was confident and composed. We told each other to keep fighting and stay positive. Once we gained some momentum, the belief grew, and we pulled through eventually.

"Jemimah's century was outstanding... I was really happy with how we complemented each other in that game," said Harmanpreet during the interaction at Velammal.

About the significance of winning the ultimate trophy and its impact on women's cricket, the 36-year-old said: "Winning the World Cup means a lot, and as a team, we knew the importance.

"The moment you don't have an ICC title, it feels empty. We really wanted to fulfill this goal... and now we have," said the captain during the chat at Sathyabama.

"A lot of positive changes have already happened. As players, we ask for more matches, which we're now getting.

"Now it's about bringing more girls to the field and increasing competition, just like in men's cricket. More competition will make the players and the team stronger.

"We've received messages from kids saying they're now going to cricket academies. That's exactly what we wanted – to inspire more girls to take up the sport.

"Seeing families encouraging their kids to play makes it even more special," said Harmanpreet.

Big cheer! Harmanpreet, at a felicitation ceremony on Thursday, acknowledged that the triumph has stirred changes, including more matches for the women's team. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

daCunha/AB/1065

SNAPSHOTS

Triumphant: The Black Caps pose with the series trophy after the fifth and final T20I. AFP

NZ rides on Duffy's four-for to seal T20I series win

Jacob Duffy took four for 35 as New Zealand romped to a crushing eight-wicket win in the fifth T20 International against West Indies in Dunedin on Thursday to seal a 3-1 series victory. "We just wanted to be clinical, finish off the series," said Duffy.

The scores: West Indies 140 in 18.4 overs (Chase 38; Duffy 4/35) lost to New Zealand 141/2 in 15.4 overs (Conway 47 n.o. Robinson 45). **Toss:** New Zealand.

de Minaur keeps his chances alive

Alex de Minaur kept alive his chances of reaching the last four of the ATP Finals after beating Taylor Fritz 7-6(3), 6-3 in Turin on Thursday.

The Australian had to win in straight sets in order to have any chance of making it out of the Jimmy Connors Group.

The results: Jimmy Connors Group: Alex de Minaur bt Taylor Fritz 7-6(3), 6-3.

Bjorn Borg Group: Jannik Sinner bt Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-3.

Jyothi and Abhishek lead India's medal hunt in Asian Archery Championships

Sports Bureau

Seasoned compound archers V. Jyothi Surekha and Abhishek Verma led India to four medals, including three gold, at the Asian archery in Dhaka on Thursday.

Jyothi secured the women's individual and team gold medals, while Abhishek played his part in helping India win the mixed team gold and men's team silver.

Jyothi produced a near-perfect performance to beat Taiwan's Chen Si-yu 149-143 in the semifinals before seeing off 17-year-old compatriot Prithika Pradeep 147-145 in the women's individual final as India took the top two spots.

Earlier, Jyothi, Prithika and Deepshikha combined well as India defeated Korea 236-234 to bag the women's team title. The Indians scored an identical 59 in all four ends.

Abhishek, along with Prathamesh Fuge and Sahil Jadhav, lost the men's team gold medal match 229-230 to Kazakhstan by a solitary point.

But Abhishek and young Deepshikha gelled well to record a 153-151 victory over host Bangladesh in the mixed team final for the top honour.

Golden trio: Deepshikha, Prithika, and Jyothi, left, after winning the compound women's team event and Abhishek with his medals. X@INDIA_ARCHERY

The results:
Compound: Individual:
Women: Final: Jyothi Surekha bt Prithika Pradeep 147-145.
Semifinals: Prithika bt Kulsum Mone (Ban) 146-145; Jyothi bt Chen Si-yu (Tpe) 149-143.
Team: Men: Final: Kazakhstan (Bunyod Mirzametov, Dilmukhamet Mussa, Andrey Tyutyun) bt India (Prathamesh Fuge, Sahil Jadhav, Abhishek Verma) 230-229.
Women: Final: India (Deepshikha, Jyothi, Prithika) bt Korea (Park Yerin, Oh Yoohyun, Park Jungyoon) 236-234.
Mixed: Final: India (Deepshikha, Abhishek Verma) bt Bangladesh (Bonna, Himu Bachhar) 153-151.

MI acquires Shardul and Rutherford

Sports Bureau
Mumbai

Five-time IPL champion Mumbai Indians on Thursday confirmed the acquisition of Shardul Thakur and West Indies' Sherfane Rutherford in separate trades with Lucknow Super Giants and Gujarat Titans ahead of the 2026 season.

MI secured Shardul and Rutherford for their existing fee of ₹2 crore and ₹2.6 crore respectively. With MI's purse having shrunk, the franchise is likely to release some high-value players.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

On top: The Karnataka under-19 women squad with its big prize. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka women reign

Karnataka defeated Andhra in the final of the BCCI under-19 women's T20 trophy at Kolkata.

The scores: Andhra 119/9 in 20 overs (Deeksha Katragadda 36, Setu Sai 45, J. Deeksha 5/21) lost to Karnataka 120/3 in 17.4 overs (C.D. Deeksha 47 n.o.).

Dhruv's ton highlights Karnataka's victory

Dhruv Prabhakar (104) starred in Karnataka's win over Himachal Pradesh in the BCCI men's under-23 State 'A' trophy at Jaipur.

The scores:
Karnataka 363/5 in 50 overs (E.J. Jasper 57, Dhruv Prabhakar 104, Aneeshwar Gautam 75, Harshil Dharmani 67) bt Himachal Pradesh 300 in 45.3 overs (Atul Jaswal 86, Mridul Surroch 50, Amanpreet Singh 70, Hardik Raj 3/35, Manvanth Kumar 3/54).